VIZ media
shôjo

BASARA™

Story and Art by Yumi Tamura

Vol. 19

shôjo

BASARA™

Vol. 19

Story and Art by

Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #19
Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Translation/Lillian Olsen
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Bill Schuch
Cover and Interior Design/Yuki Ameda
Editor/Ian Robertson

Managing Editor/Megan Bates
Editorial Director/Elizabeth Kawasaki
Editor in Chief/Alvin Lu
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
Senior VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Exec. VP of Sales & Marketing/John Easum
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

© 1991 Yumi TAMURA/Shogakukan Inc.
First published by Shogakukan Inc. in Japan as "Basara."
New and adapted artwork and text © 2006 VIZ Media, LLC.
All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shôjo Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, August 2006

An apocalypse brought human civilization to its knees, and control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future."

Under Ukon XV's harsh rule, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. She has also proven herself in Okinawa to the south and the Tohoku region in the north. Her closest comrades now know the truth about her gender; her confession has galvanized them further.

Meanwhile, the Red King's recklessness has inspired a coup. After fleeing alone, Shuri has been forced to reevaluate his viewpoint and start from scratch. Despite newly acquired allies in Shikoku, he has failed in battle against Tatara. Worse, although he and Sarasa have fallen in love, they have finally learned the truth about their secret identities. Torn by the discovery, Shuri attempts suicide only to be "rescued" by Asagi, who has sold him into slavery.

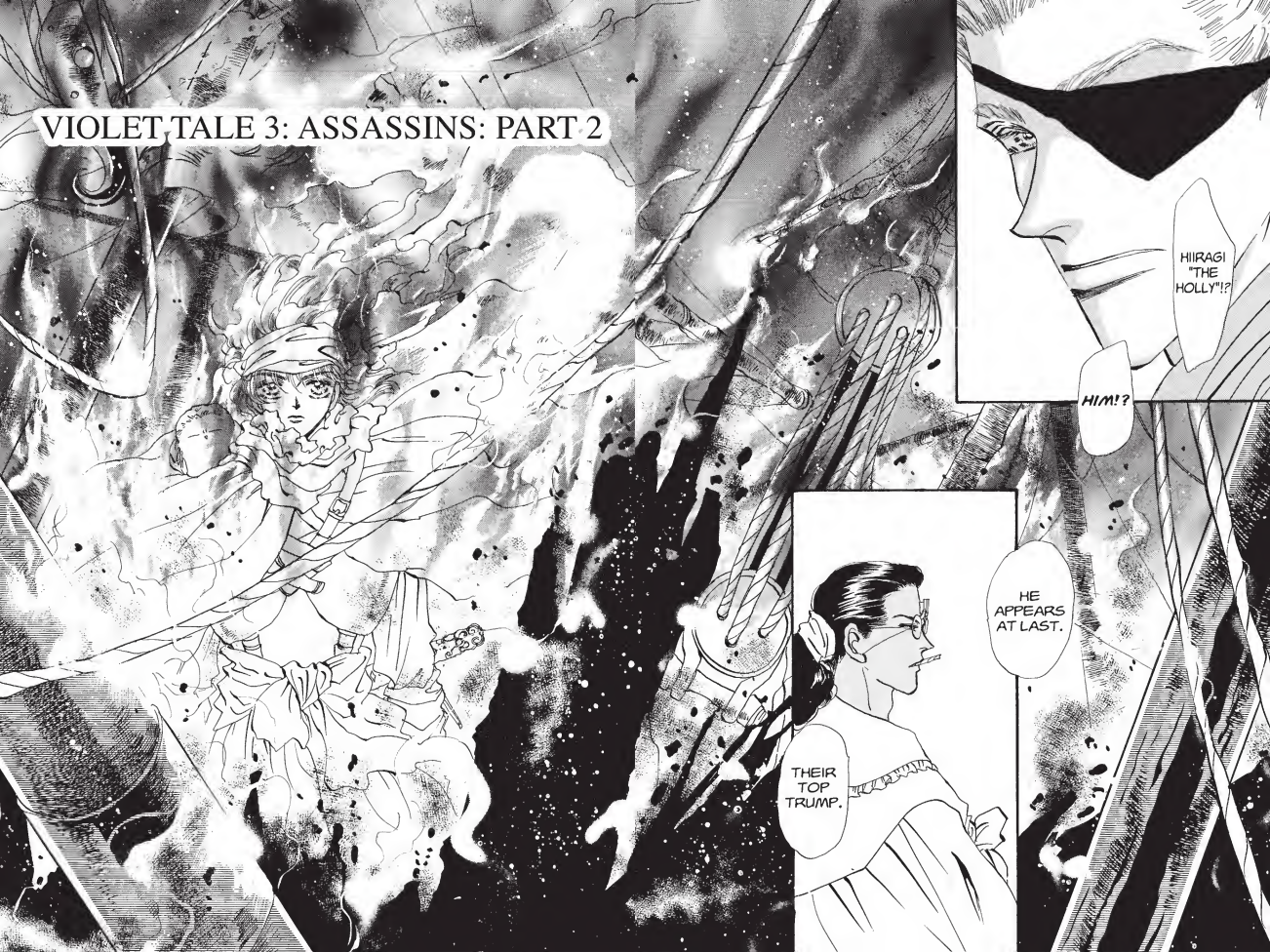
After being reunited with her mother in Tohoku, Sarasa has regained her emotional balance and found a new ally in Lady Purple, wife of the Black King. With Lady Purple's help, she has the chance to prove herself in the very heart of King Ukon's lands—the capital of Kyoto!

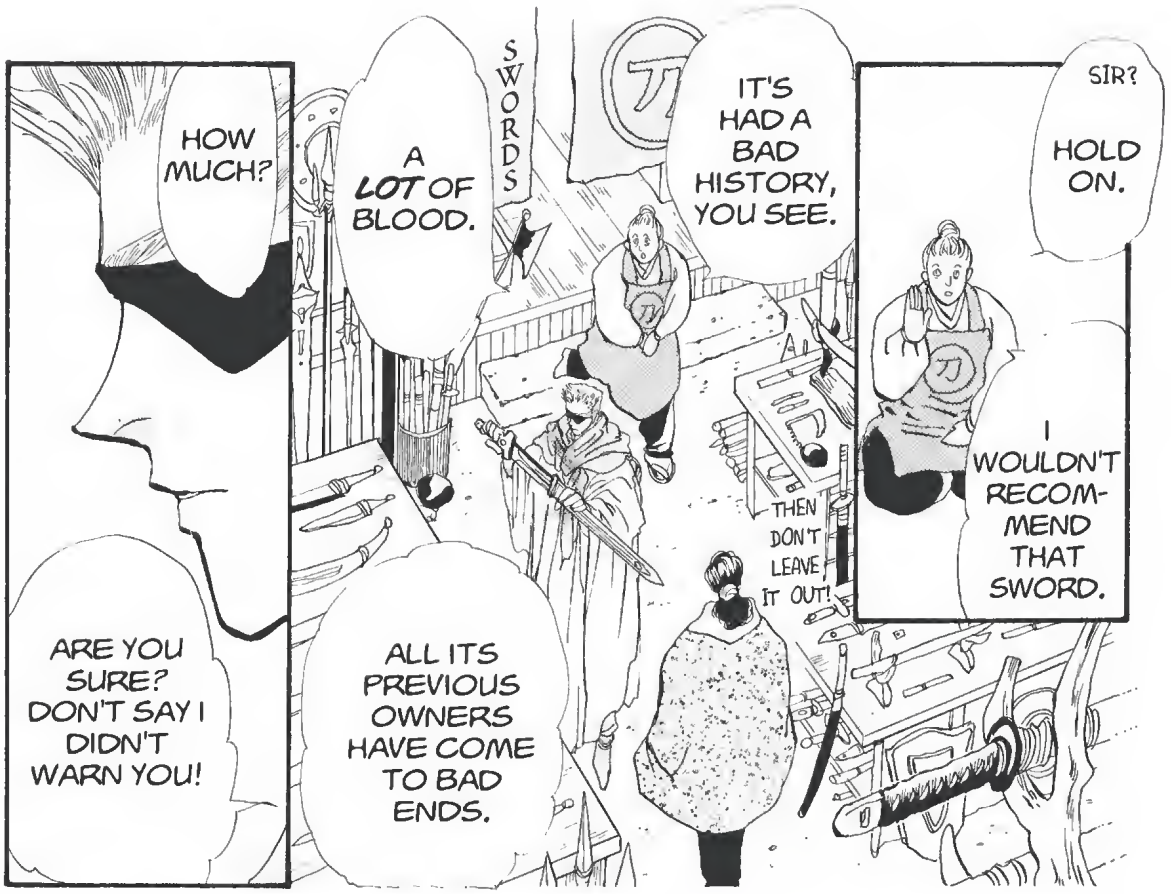
Meanwhile, Shuri succeeds in banishing the Black King. To top it off, the most elite assassins are fast on Sarasa's heels...!

CONTENTS

Violet Tale 3: Assassins: part 2
5
Violet Tale 4: Phoenix
47
Violet Tale 5: Trace of Love
90
Violet Tale 6: Kiss
141
Tam-Tam Time
188

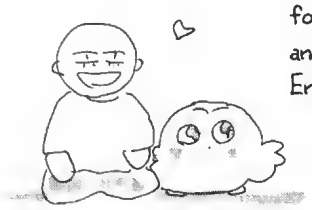
VIOLET TALE 3: ASSASSINS PART 2


VIOLET TALE 3: ASSASSINS: PART 2
HIIRAGI "THE HOLLY"!?
HIM!?
HE APPEARS AT LAST.
THEIR TOP TRUMP.



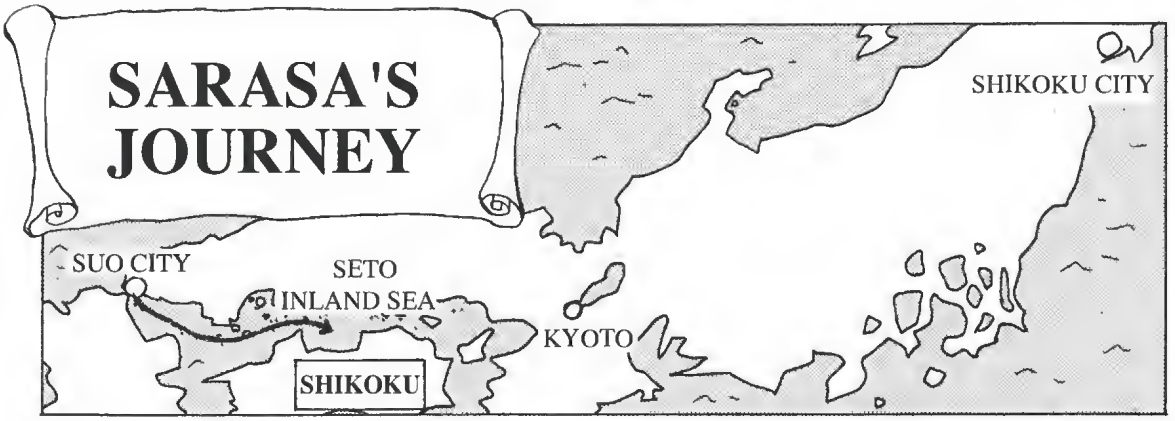
TINY TAM-TAM TIME!

Hello!
I can't believe it's 19 volumes already.
Thanks for all your support!
Please check out Betsu-Comi magazine!



I wanted an antique look for this cover, and chose gold.
Enjoy!

TAMU

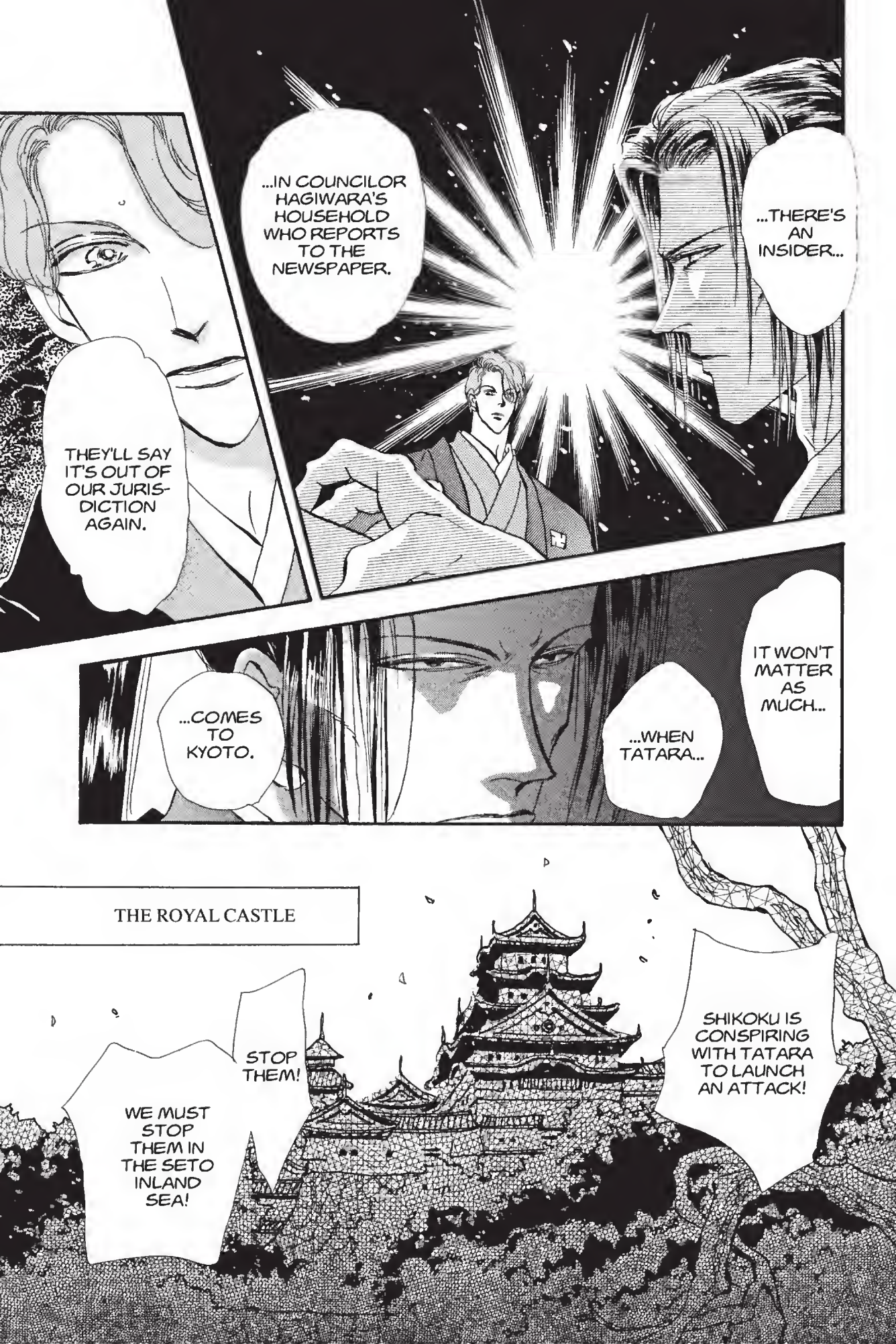


AN INAUSPICIOUS SWORD...

IT'S ALL RIGHT ...
...FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY, TOO, Y'KNOW.
WELL...
...DO WHAT YOU WILL.
I'LL WRITE ABOUT IT IN MY BOOK.
THANKS.
WE'RE GONNA BE BUSY.
PAT
SAY HI TO TATARA FOR ME.
THE BLACK KING?
RETIRED!?
HUF PUF
WHAT, JIRO?
BIG NEWS FROM SHIKOKU CITY!
HERE'S THE FIRST REPORT!
TARO! TARO!
TM TM

TM TM TM
YACHI-YO? SHE'S SAFE.
SEE YA.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT I DO.
TARO!
I WOULDN'T ADVISE GETTING INFORMATION FROM THE HAGIWARA MAID MUCH LONGER.
THE YARO-GUMI ARE SNIFFING AROUND.
I HOPE THEY'LL LET YOU PERFORM SOON!
HELLO!
CHF
YOU...
...ARE IN THE SAME BOAT, TOO.
BE CAREFUL, TARO...

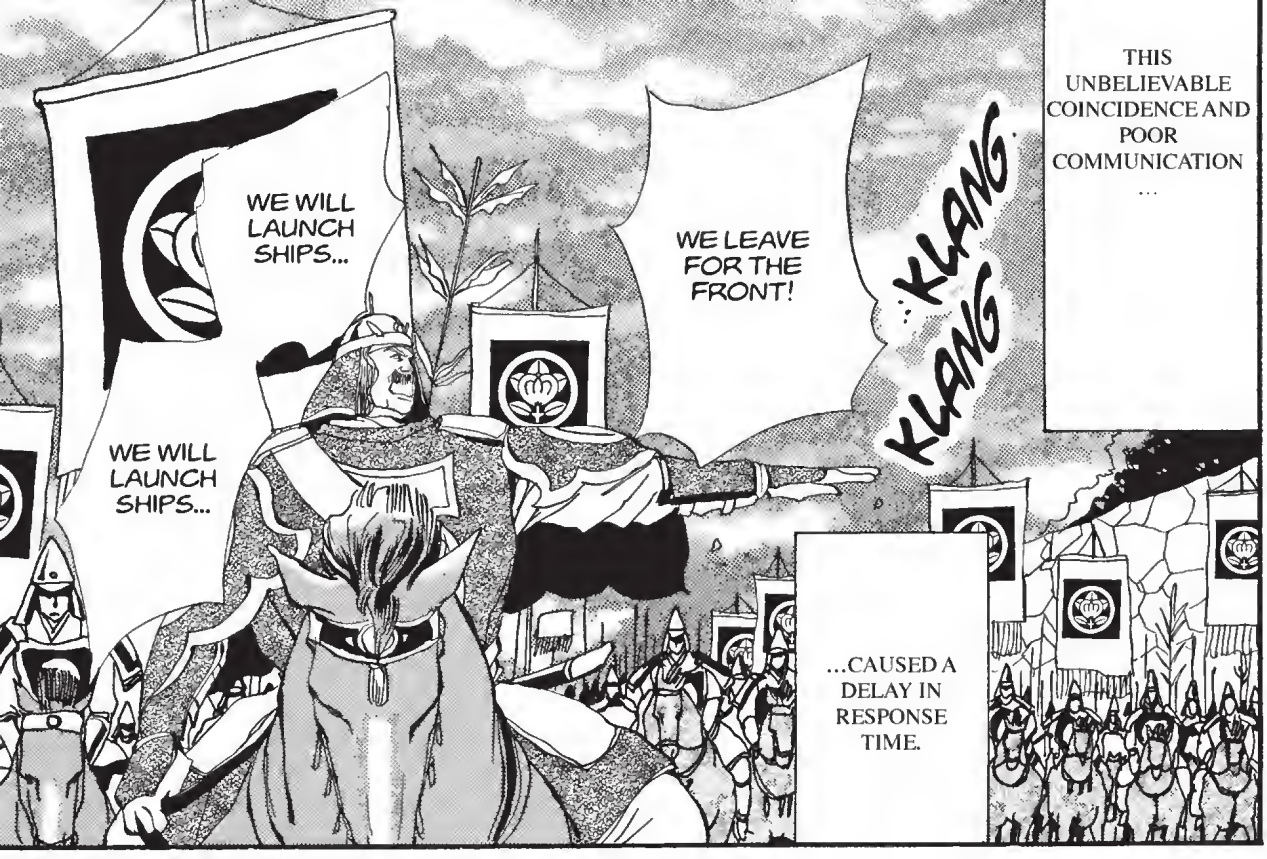
I RAN INTO THAT COMELY PERFORMER AGAIN.
VICE CAPTAIN?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER PRINTER'S HIDEOUT.
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
ODD.
A BUSH CLOVER MOTIF...
PERHAPS IT WAS MADE OUT OF SPITE.
OR PER-HAPS...
"TACHIBANA"
HISO-KA.
"SAKURA"DA
CHERRY
PEACH
THE LATE "MOMO"NOI
ORANGE
...AREN'T ALLOWED ON THE WARES OF PLEBES, SINCE THE COUNCILORS BEAR THEIR NAMES.
"HAGI"WARA
THE FOUR PLANTS...


...THERE'S AN INSIDER...
...IN COUNCILOR HAGIWARA'S HOUSEHOLD WHO REPORTS TO THE NEWSPAPER.
THEY'LL SAY IT'S OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION AGAIN.
IT WON'T MATTER AS MUCH...
...WHEN TATARA...
...COMES TO KYOTO.
THE ROYAL CASTLE
SHIKOKU IS CONSPIRING WITH TATARA TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK!
STOP THEM!
WE MUST STOP THEM IN THE SETO INLAND SEA!

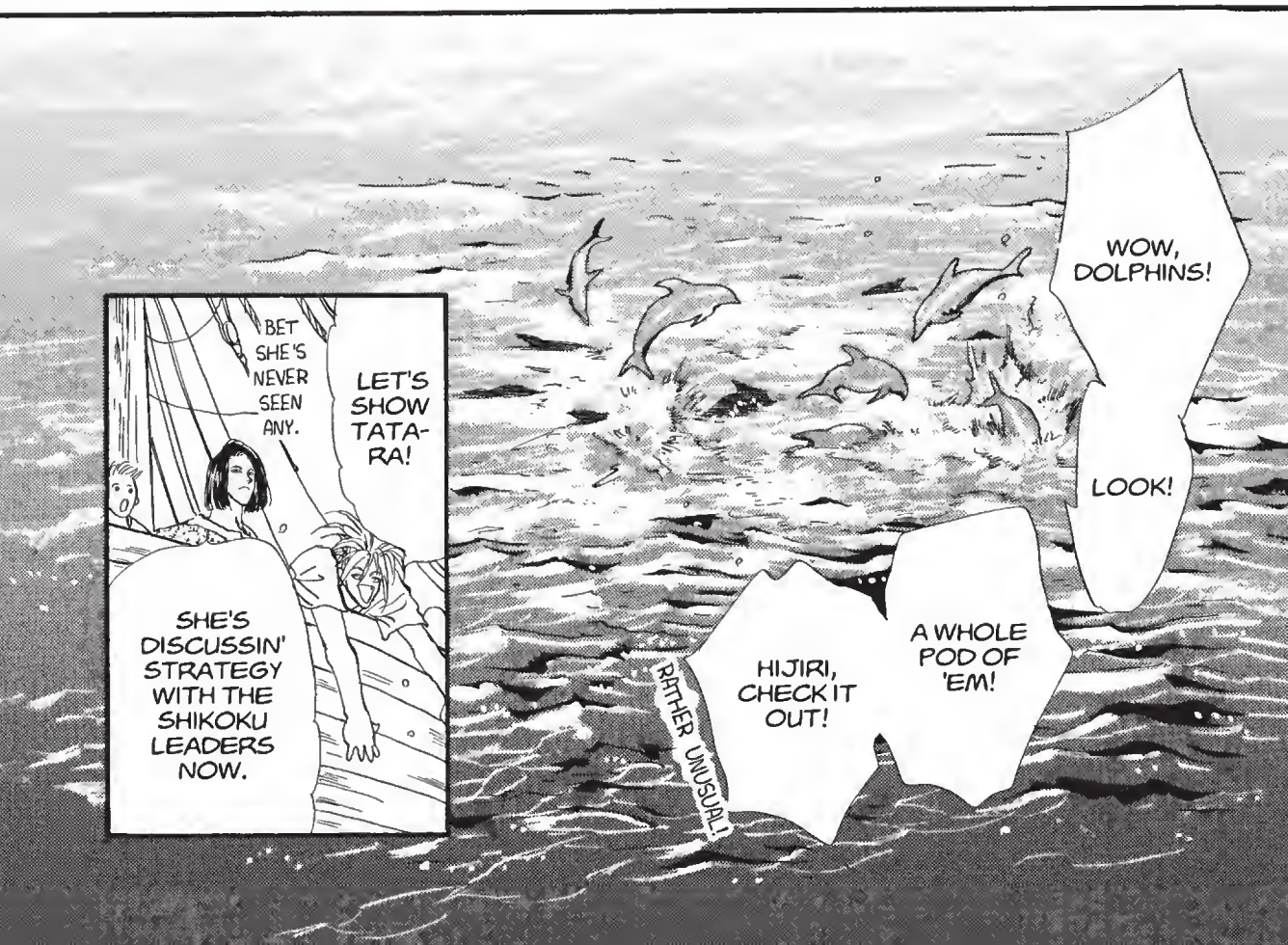
HEY, LORD TACHI-BANA.
I HEAR YOU'LL BE IN COMMAND.
TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS?
TK TK TK
LORD SAKU-RADA.
SNAP
SNAP SNAP
I HAVE NO CHOICE ...
...WITH LORD MOMO-NOI NOW GONE.
WE MUST CRUSH THEM...
...IN THE INLAND SEA, OR THEY WILL GET TO KYOTO.
THAT MUST BE PREVENT-ED.
BUT NOBODY HAS NAVAL EXPERI-ENCE.
DANG.
WE SHOUDA KEPT THE RED KING ON OUR SIDE!
HA HA HA
LORD SAKU-RADA!

WHY IN THE WORLD ...
...DID WE IGNORE TATARA FOR SO LONG?
HMPH.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR "LAST SHRED OF CONSCI-ENCE."
NEED KNOWS NO LAW.
I DON'T CARE...
...AS LONG AS TATARA IS KILLED.
HEH.
WELL, WE'LL SEE.
I HEAR LORD HAGIWARA SENT ASSASSINS.
...GUESSED WRONG.
ALL OF US...
THE ONES WHO GOT HEMMED IN...
...ALL GOT FLIPPED OVER.
WE'D BEEN PLAYING GO ALL ALONG...
...BUT IT TURNS OUT TATARA HAD BEEN PLAYING OTHELLO.

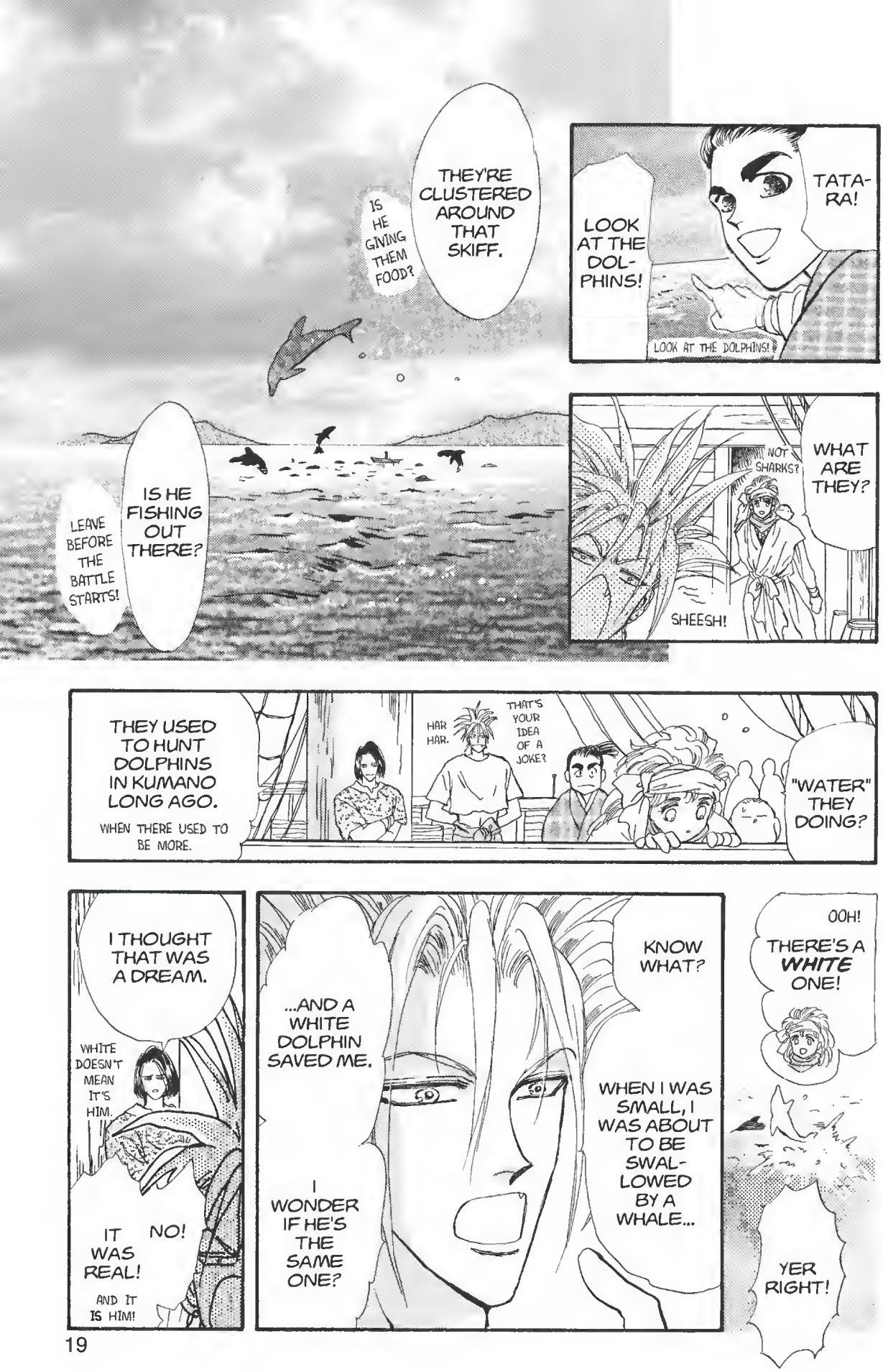
WELL...
...AS LONG AS THE BLACK KING SECURES THE CORNER...
...WE WON'T ALL GET FLIPPED OVER.
ENOUGH LECTURES. DO SOME-THING!
TK
GOOD DAY.
OR...
...WOULD WE?
OH, LORD TACHIBANA IS IN CHARGE.
HE'S ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR A BATTLE THERE.
AND SOON.
BIG TROUBLE IN SHIKOKU-
TM
TM
"SHIKO-KU"?
SHIKOKU AND SHIKOKU CITY...
OF COURSE.
NEVER MIND.
PHEW.
OH GOOD! SO YOU'VE HEARD ALREADY!



THE SETO INLAND SEA... SEA OF HIUCHI...



ALL RIGHT.
THEN WE...
...WILL PROVIDE BACKUP SUPPORT.
YES.
WE'LL TAKE THE LEAD!
THIS BATTLE IS SHIKOKU'S CHANCE TO SETTLE THE SCORE!
OUR SHIP WILL TAKE OUT THE CAN-NONS...
...PLACED ON THE ISLETS.
GREAT!
GOOD LUCK!
WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
AND TATARA'S SHIP'S CANNON...
WITH THE MOBILITY OF THE SETO NAVY,
SUO CITY
HIMEJI
KOBE
KYOTO
SAKAI
SEA OF HARIMA
SEA OF HIUCHI
SHIKOKU
THE FINAL BATTLE WILL BE AT THE SEA OF HARIMA!

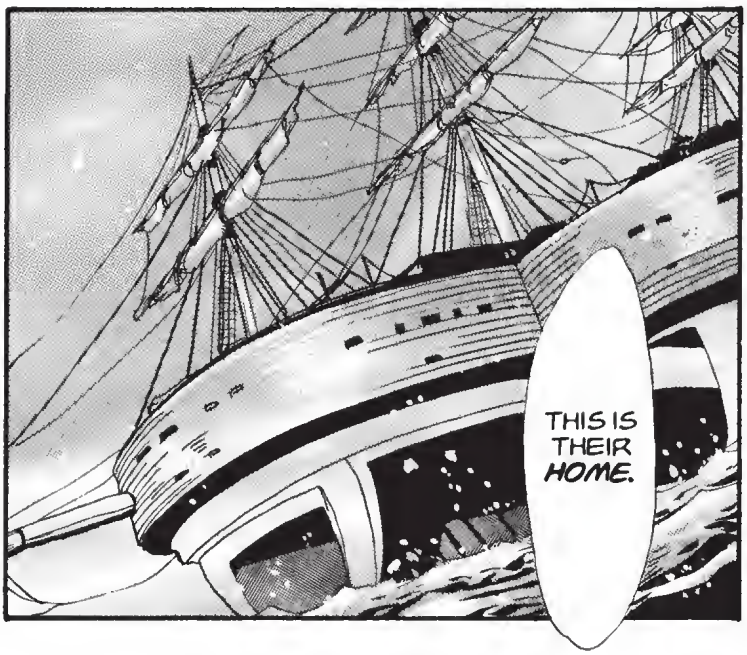

THEY'RE CLUSTERED AROUND THAT SKIFF.
IS HE GIVING THEM FOOD?
TATA-RA!
LOOK AT THE DOL-PHINS!
LOOK AT THE DOLPHINS!
WHAT ARE THEY?
NOT SHARKS?
SHEESH!
IS HE FISHING OUT THERE?
LEAVE BEFORE THE BATTLE STARTS!
THEY USED TO HUNT DOLPHINS IN KUMANO LONG AGO.
WHEN THERE USED TO BE MORE.
HAR HAR.
THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE?
"WATER" THEY DOING?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS A DREAM.
WHITE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S HIM.
NO!
IT WAS REAL!
AND IT IS HIM!
...AND A WHITE DOLPHIN SAVED ME.
I WONDER IF HE'S THE SAME ONE?
KNOW WHAT?
WHEN I WAS SMALL, I WAS ABOUT TO BE SWAL-LOWED BY A WHALE...
OOH!
THERE'S A *WHITE* ONE!
YER RIGHT!

YEAH, WHATEVER.
SUZAKU ELDER!
YOUNG'UNS ARE ALWAYS SLACKING OFF.
SCRUB SCRUB
HEY, I'M TRYING TO CLEAN HERE!
OUTTA MY WAY!
IT'S COMING INTO SEASON!
FROM THE SHIP'S GARDEN
TATA-RA!
TASTE THIS TOMATO!
EVEN BEFORE A BATTLE...
TEA-TIME BUDDIES
I HAVE TO POLISH UP!
I HEAR THIS'LL BE A BIG NAVAL BATTLE.
IT'S TIME TO SHOW WHAT MY SUZAKU CAN DO!
AND WITH THE KING'S ARMY, NO LESS!
...THERE'S A COMMUNITY ON THIS SHIP.
...EVEN IF I MAY HAVE TURNED HER OVER TO THE YOUNG!
SHE'S STILL MY SHIP...

VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME: ①

SHURI, MEANWHILE.

TAMU

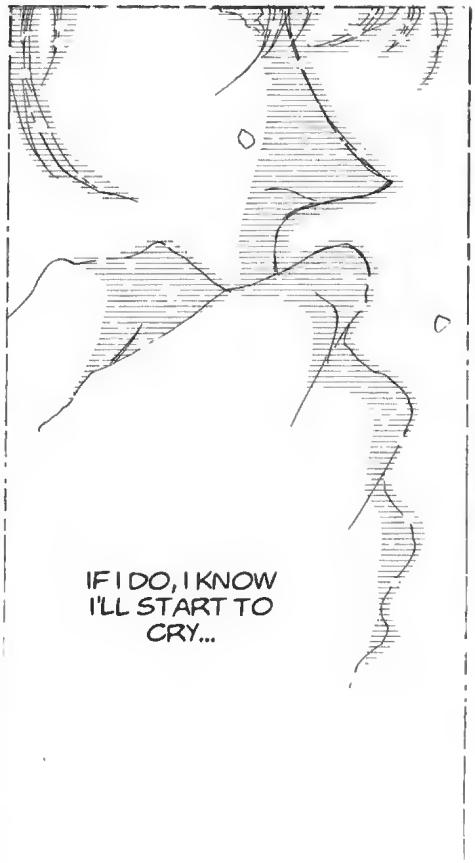


YEAH!!
YEAH!
WE'RE ALL READY!
HEY.
IS EVERY-ONE READY?
TATARA!
WE CAN FIGHT ANY TIME!
THE SHIKOKU SHIP WILL TAKE THE LEAD...
...SO TAKE A BREATHER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT ON YOUR ARMOR YET.
IT'LL ONLY MAKE YOU TIRED.
WE CAN'T LOSE!
AS LONG AS WE'RE ON THIS SHIP...
WE'RE THE BEST!
YEAH!!
WE'RE THE STRONG-EST POWER...
...ON THE OCEAN.
YEAH!
DON'T WORRY.
THE ENEMY DOESN'T HAVE ANY NAVAL COMBAT EXPERI-ENCE.
SO I HEAR.

RAAH
YEAH
I SEE MORALE IS HIGH.
RAAH
HUH!?
AGEHA!?
WHOA!
YOU CUT YOUR HAIR!?
A BUZZ CUT!
DID YOU GET YOUR HEART BROKEN?
WHAT A WASTE!
WOW!
YOU LOOK MORE MANLY!

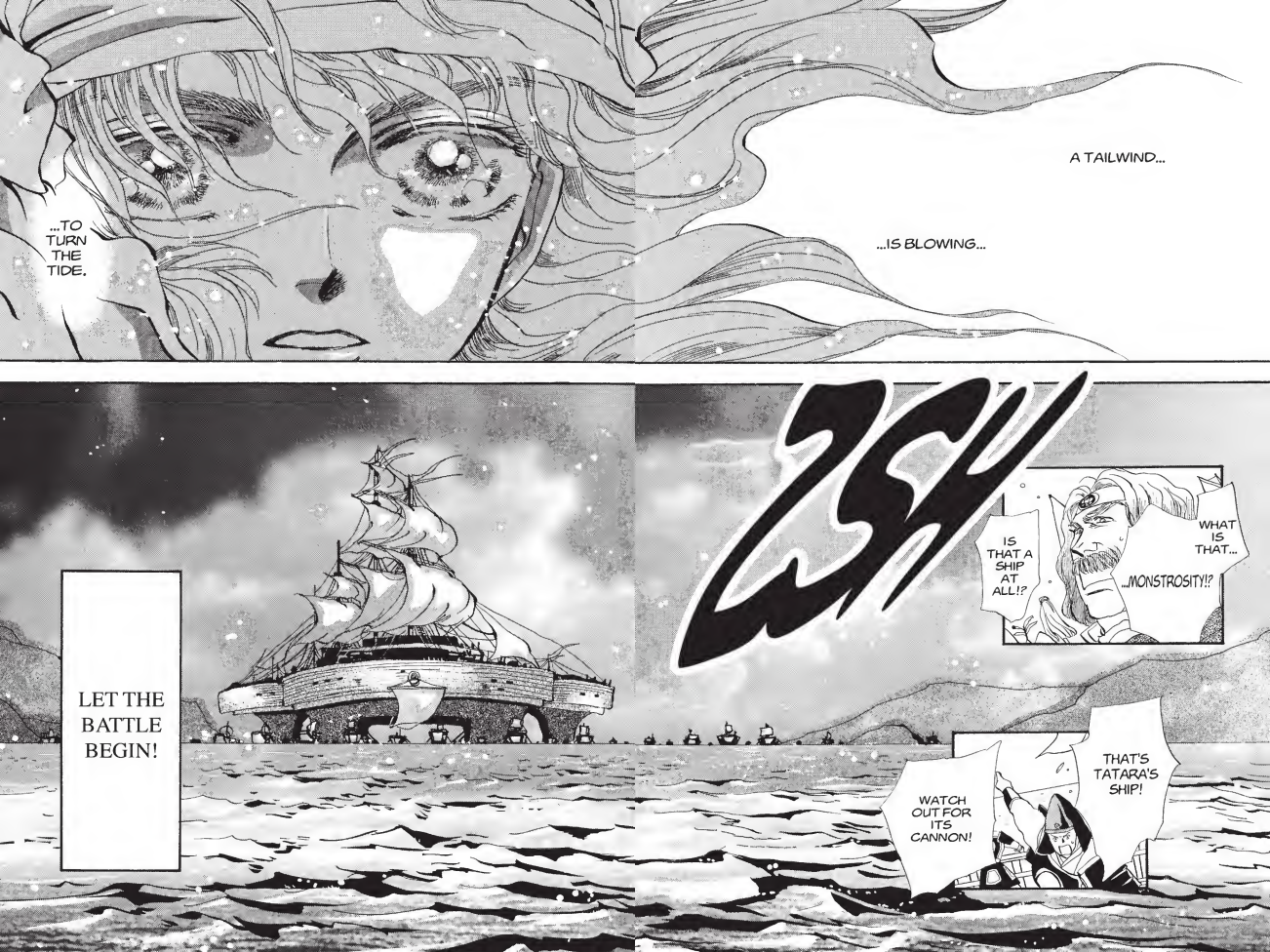
PAT PAT
GOOD LUCK.

MAKE HIM HAPPY.
DADDY!
IF YOU'RE GONNA CRY ANYWAY, MIGHT AS WELL HUG HIM.
I'M NOT CRYING!


IF I DO, I KNOW I'LL START TO CRY...

I CAN'T TURN AROUND TO LOOK AT HIS FACE.

THE BLACK KING...
...MADE PEACE WITH KAZUNO AND KANTO.
HE'S LAID DOWN HIS CROWN.
I HAVE GOOD NEWS.
THMP
WHY'D YOU CUT IT?
!!
...AFTER HE WRITES UP THE DETAILS.
THERE WILL BE FURTHER NEWS FROM TARO...
LADY PURPLE...
O-ICHI...
KIKU...!
THEY DID IT!

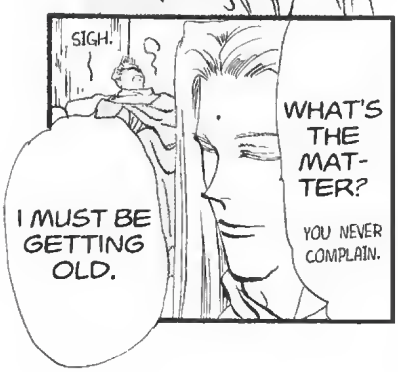

...TO TURN THE TIDE.
A TAILWIND...
...IS BLOWING...
254
LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!
IS THAT A SHIP AT ALL!?
WHAT IS THAT...
...MONSTROSITY!?
WATCH OUT FOR ITS CANNON!
THAT'S TATARA'S SHIP!

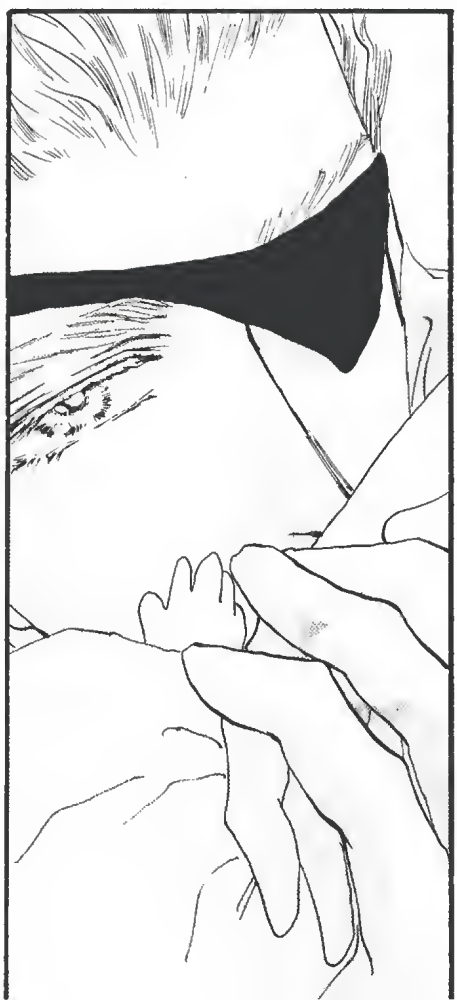
AIM FOR THE BATTERY ON LAND!
FIRE!
BOOM
AAAH
YAH-RAH
I WISH I WERE AT THE FRONT!
AIM CARE-FULLY!
WE STAY BEHIND THIS TIME!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
DM
NOK NOK
CHK
PRIN-CESS SENJU?

HE JUST FELL ASLEEP.
HE HAS LORD SHIDO'S EYES.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH HE LOOKS LIKE HIM.
I'VE...
...COME TO SEE MOTO-MICHI.
OH?
WHY...
IS THAT YOU, AGEHA!?
YOUR HAIR!

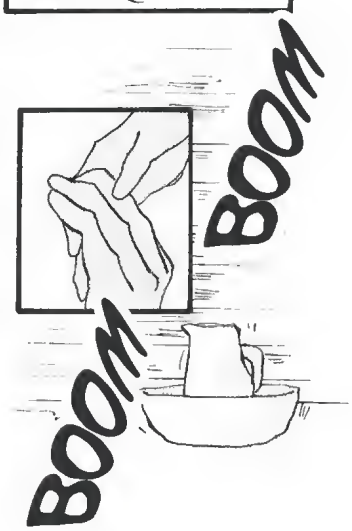
AGEHA...?

SIGH.
I WISH I HAD TWO OF ME.
THMP


SIGH.
I MUST BE GETTING OLD.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU NEVER COMPLAIN.



IS ANYTHING WRONG?


BOOM
BOOM

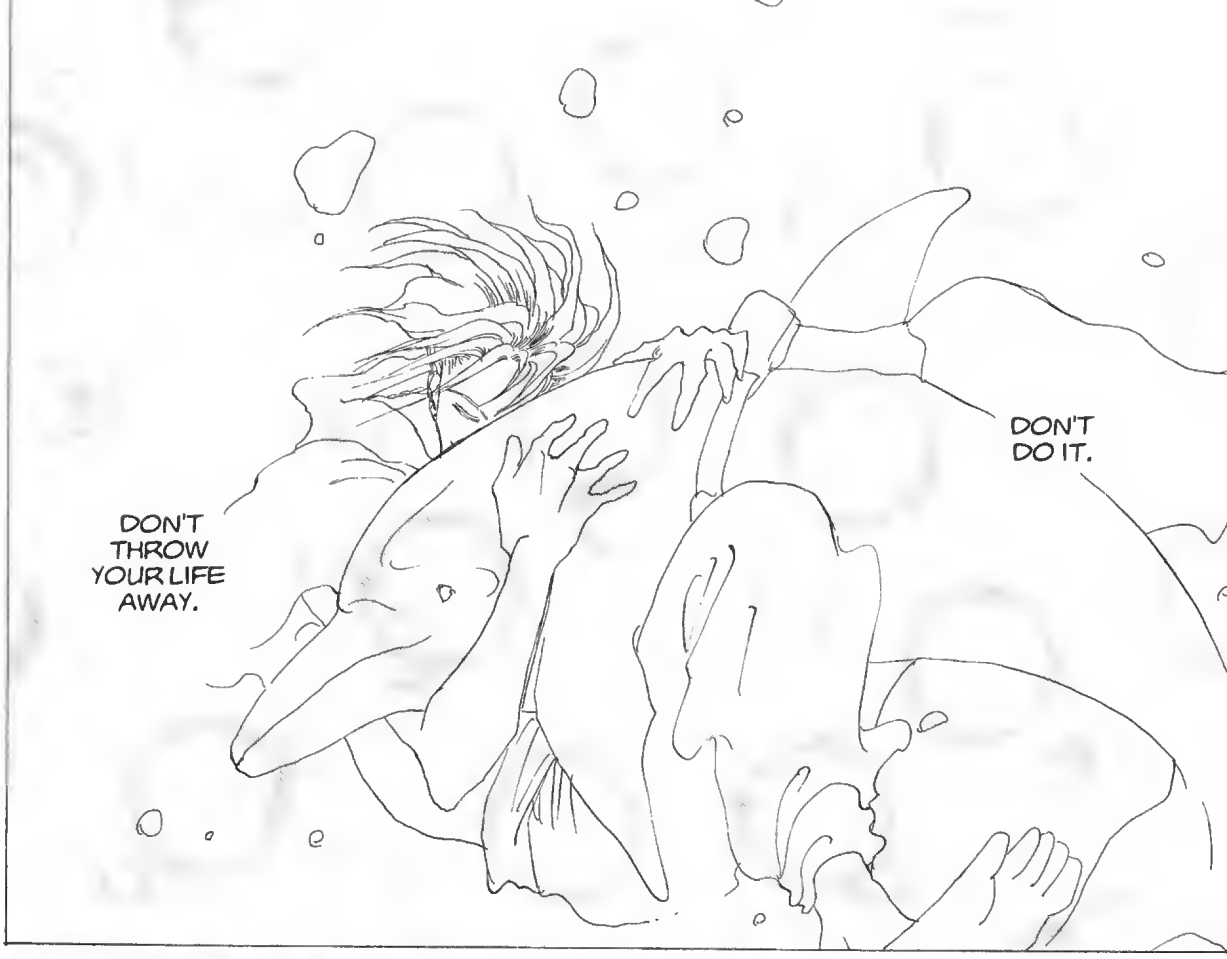
YES?
NAGI?
TM TM
OH.
TATA-RA.
YOU WANT TO SETTLE DOWN AND FIND COMFORT...
...NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR AGE...
ONE TENDS TO BECOME...
...VERY ATTACHED TO THINGS.
BUT THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN YOU MUST MAKE A CLEAN BREAK.
OR YOU MIGHT END UP LOSING SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT.
...BUT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO STAY BY SOMEONE'S SIDE.
HMPH.
I SEE.
I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU YET, YOU KNOW.
...?
ALL RIGHT...

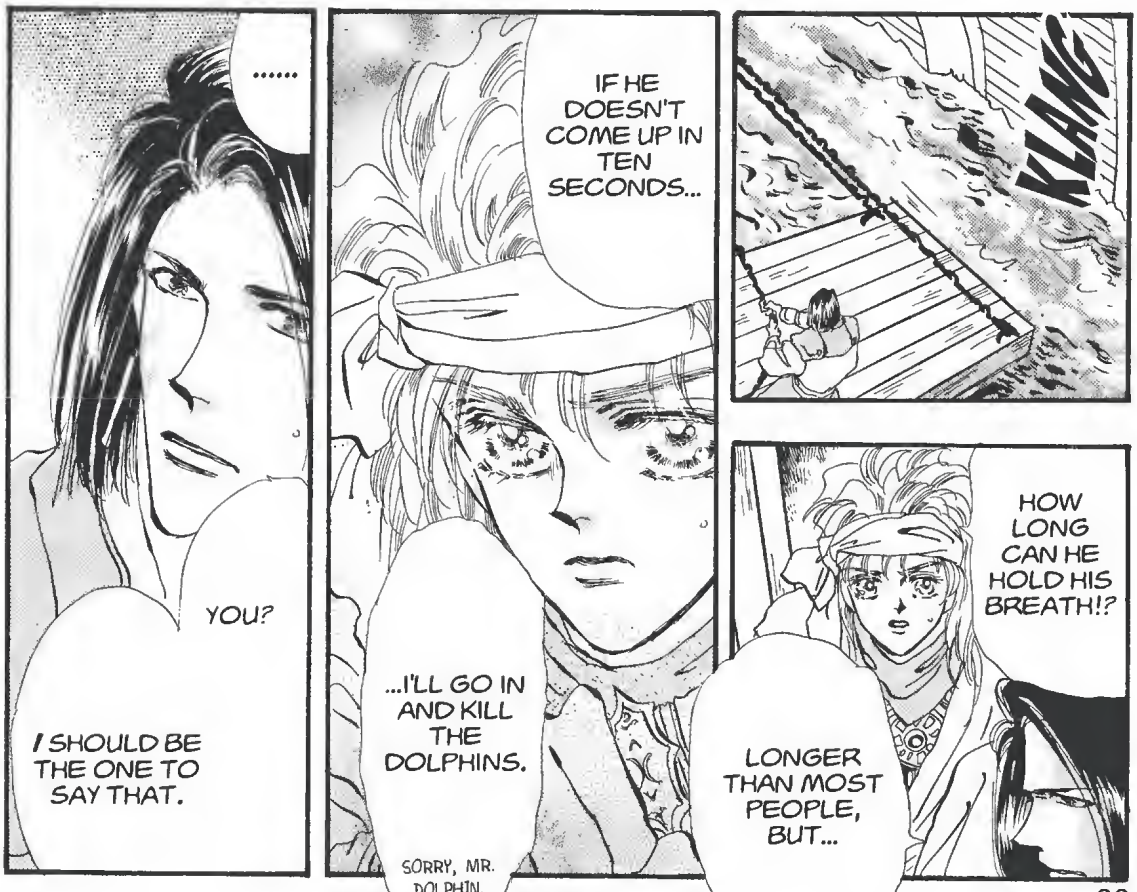
BOOM
I'M BORED.
I'M A-SQUATTIN'!
THE STAR OF THE SHOW ALWAYS ENTERS LATE.
BOOM
BOOM
BOMBS BELOW DECK!?
THEY'RE GETTING ATTACKED FROM THE SEA!?
WHAT!?
BOOM
BUT NOBODY'S FIRING!
BESIDES, ALL THESE SHIPS ARE BEHIND US!
WHAT!?
THE SHIKOKU SHIPS...
IS IT ARTIL-LERY FIRE!?

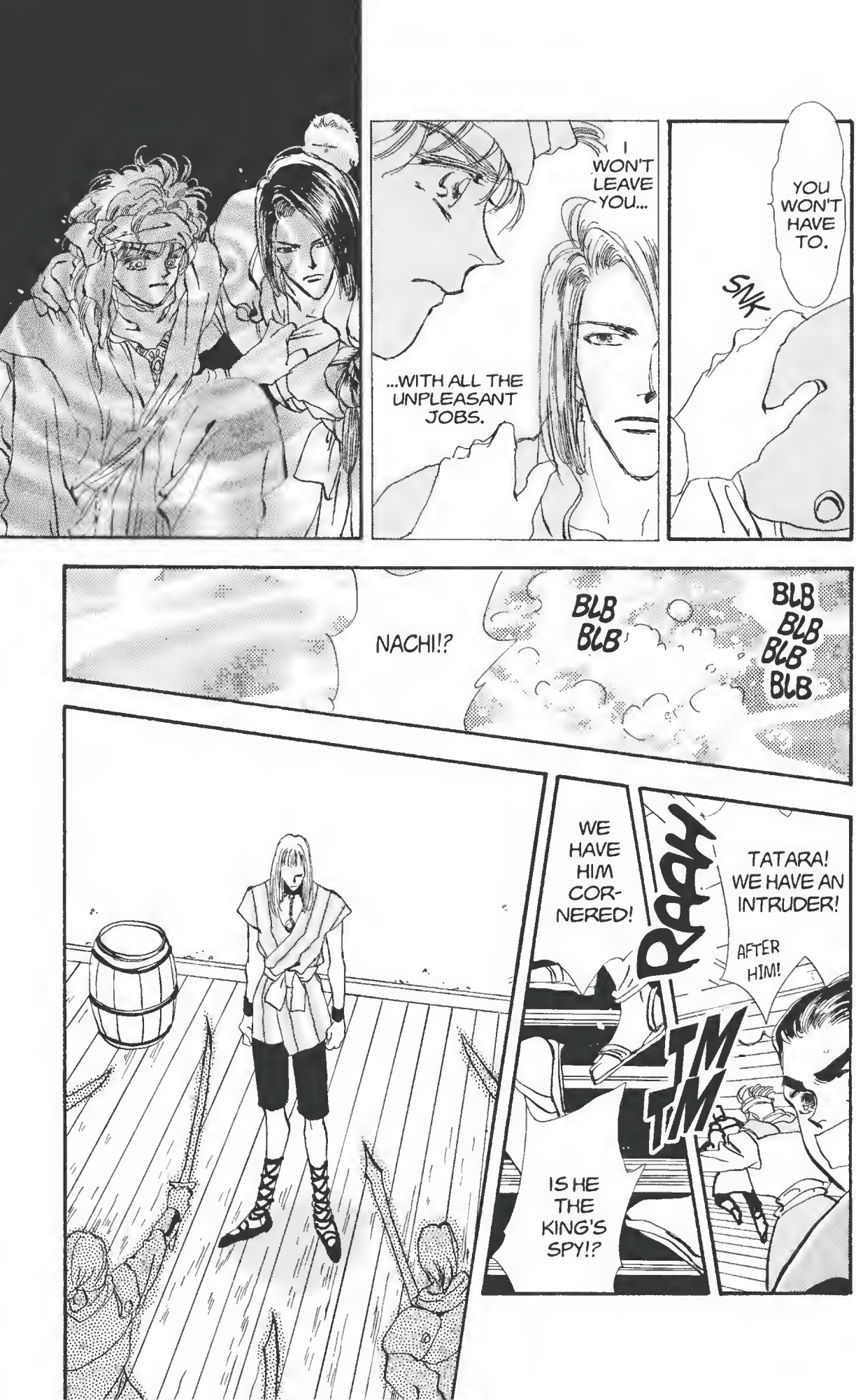
IT'S THE DOL-PHINS.
A BLACK SHADOW!
I SEE IT!
WHAT IS IT!?
WITH WHAT!?
GACK!
TORPEDOES!? IT CAN'T BE!
THEY'RE RAMMIN' THE SHIPS!
DOLPHINS ARMED WITH BOMBS!
IT HAS TO BE!
A WHITE ONE IN THE LEAD! FIVE... SIX...
COMING IN FAST!
THEY'RE HEADING FOR OUR SHIP!

NACHI!
LEAVE THIS TO ME!
DON'T MAKE ME WORRY FOR YOUR LIFE!
SWOOSH!

HE'S TRYIN' TO STOP THEM!
LET HIM DO IT!
YOU'LL ONLY EXCITE THEM!
THEY HAVEN'T BLOWN UP YET!
HIJIRI!
TM
TM
TM
TATARA, OPEN THE HATCH!
WAIT!
TM
TM
WE'LL GO IN, TOO!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
REMEMBER ME?
WE MET LONG AGO.


DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY.
DON'T DO IT.


.....
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO SAY THAT.
YOU?
IF HE DOESN'T COME UP IN TEN SECONDS...
...I'LL GO IN AND KILL THE DOLPHINS.
SORRY, MR. DOLPHIN.
KLANG
HOW LONG CAN HE HOLD HIS BREATH!?
LONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE, BUT...


I WON'T LEAVE YOU...
...WITH ALL THE UNPLEASANT JOBS.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
SNK
NACHI!?
BLB BLB
BLB BLB BLB BLB
WE HAVE HIM COR-NERED!
RAAH
TATARA! WE HAVE AN INTRUDER!
AFTER HIM!
TM TM
IS HE THE KING'S SPY!?

ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR THE EXPLOSION?
THE DOLPHINS WON'T BE COMIN'.
I TURNED THEM AWAY!
HAH! FOOL!
SUCK THAT!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN THE ONE IN THE SKIFF.
THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK.
JERK!
TYPICAL OF THE KING'S ARMY.
DO I SMELL GUN-POWDER...?
CLICK
FINE.
IS HE-
...
GET AWAY!
HE'S A SUICIDE BOMBER!

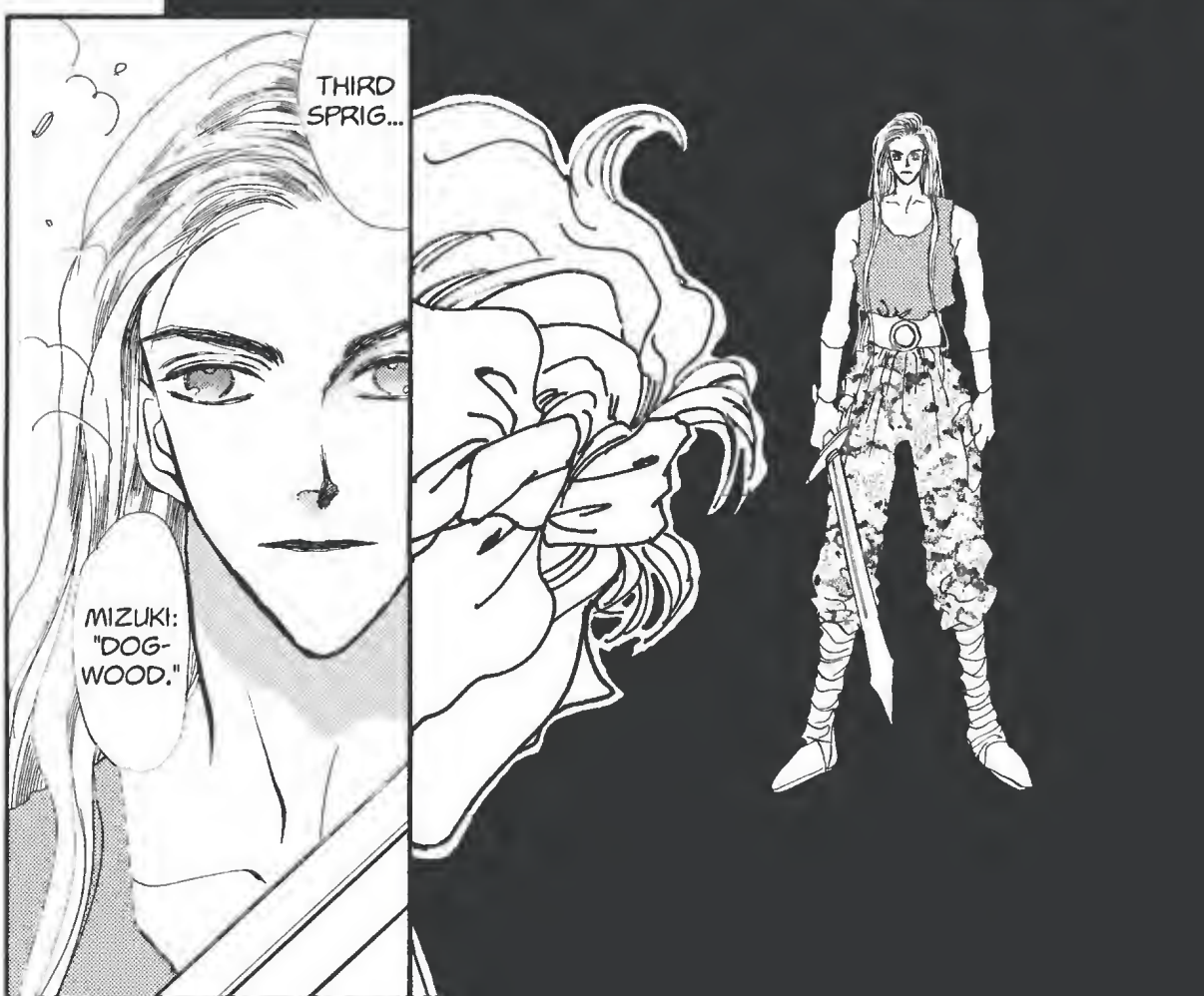
BOOM
I AM THE SECOND SPRIG...
SAZANKA --
"SASANQUA."
TATARA!?
TATARA'S SHIP!

WE'RE FLOODING!
GOOSH
KOF
TATARA!
YOU ALL RIGHT !?
I'M FINE!
RRR
HE MUST'VE BEEN LOADED WITH FUEL!
THE FIRE'S SPREADING!
IT'S GOING TO LIGHT THE ARMORY!
EVERY-ONE GET DOWN!
BIG
WAAY
EEK
ISH

NAGI...
CARRY OUT THE WOUNDED!
PUMP OUT THE WATER!
WE'RE SINKING!
YEEK
WAAH
PUT OUT THE FIRE!
COME!
EVACUATE QUICKLY!
STOP FIGHTING THE FIRE!
WE'LL ABANDON SHIP!

TATARA!
MY SHIP!
ABAN-DON SHIP!?
WHAT?
TATARA...

TATARA, WAIT A MINUTE...
HEY!
HURRY!
SHOW EVERYONE OUT!


THIRD SPRIG...
MIZUKI: "DOG-WOOD."

KA
KIAI!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME!
GO!
NACHI AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
GET GOING! HURRY, TATARA!
THERE ARE FOUR OTHERS.
SAY WHAT!?
SO MANY!

FOURTH SPRIG...
UTSUGI: "DEUTZIA."
CHACHA...
ZAKI AND I WILL TAKE HIM ON.
GO!
GO, TATARA!
SAVE THE OTHERS!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

CREEK
BOOM
ROAR

HFF
HFF
HFF

VIOLET TALE 4: PHOENIX

VIOLET TALE 4: PHOENIX

THERE'S MORE!?
BAM
KOBUSHI: "MAGNOLIA!"
FIFTH SPRIG...
KAKU!
LEAVE HIM TO US!
GO!

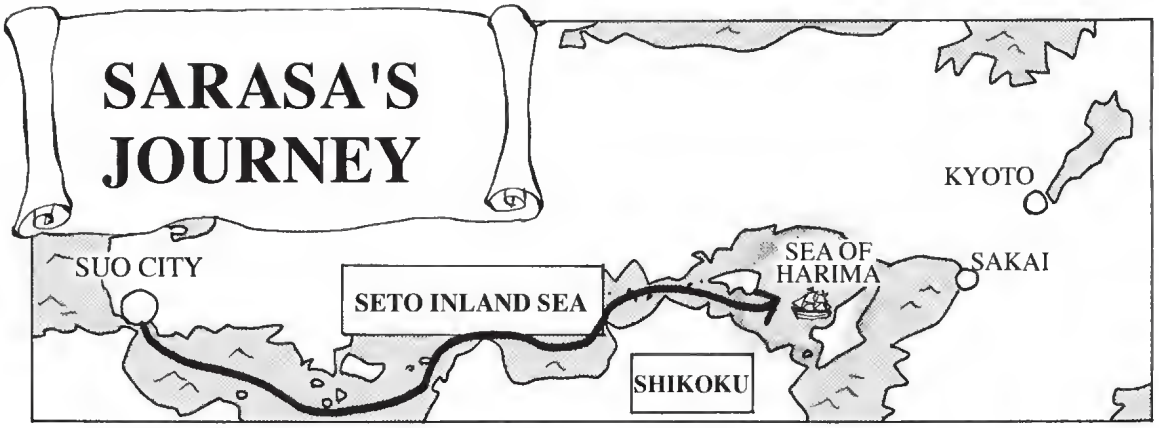
TINY TAM-TAM TIME: (2)

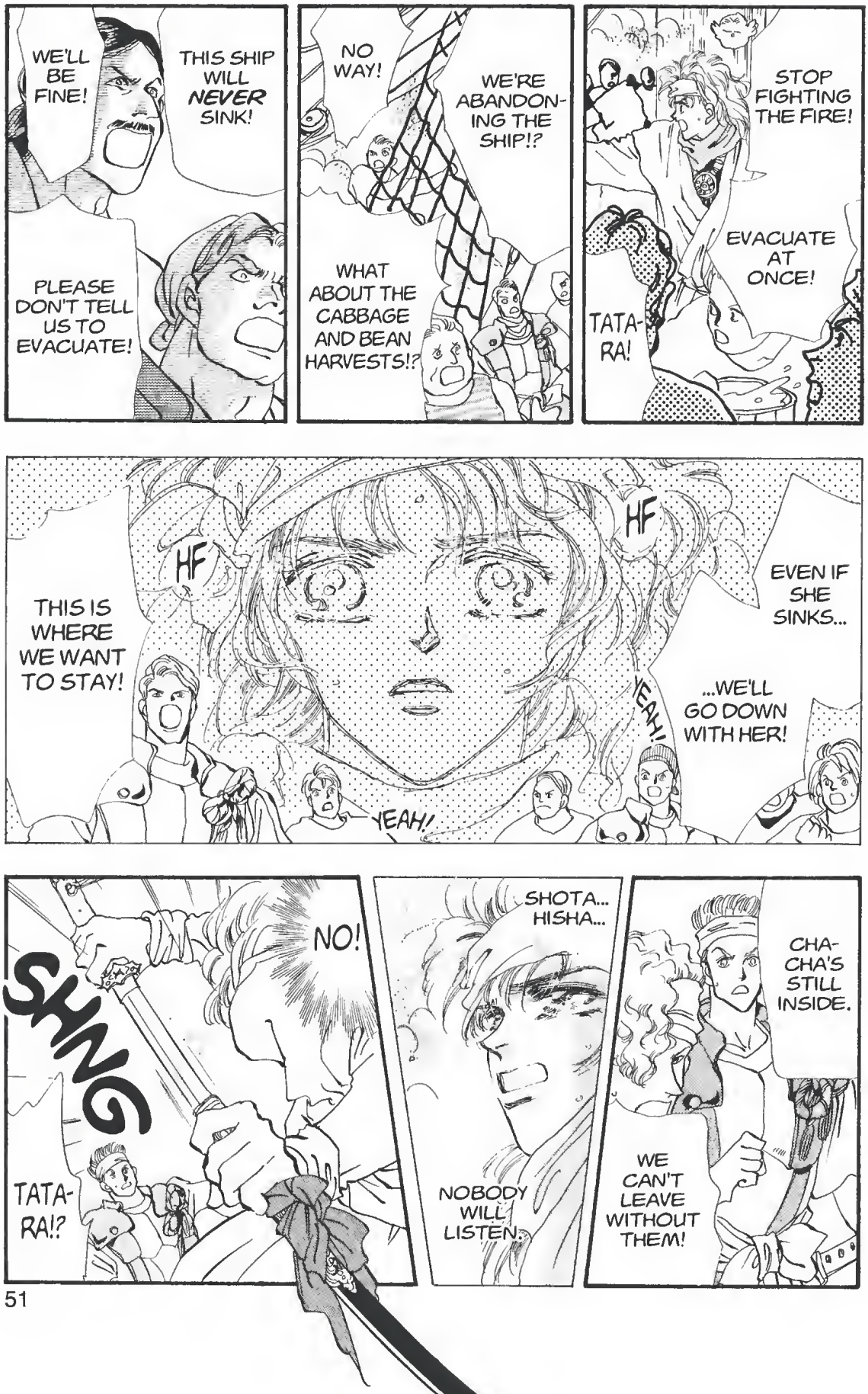
I found through my fan mail that there were quite a number of people who thought Ichimatsu was a woman!

I'm sorry my art makes it hard to tell! Argh!

Continued in part 3.

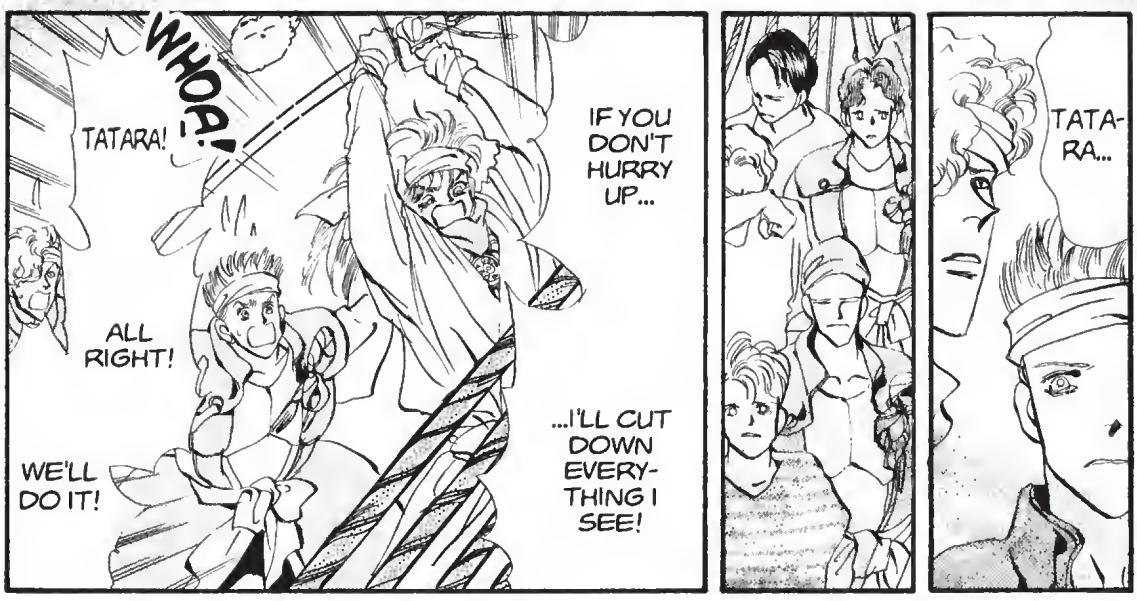
TAMU




WE'LL BE FINE!
THIS SHIP WILL NEVER SINK!
PLEASE DON'T TELL US TO EVACUATE!
NO WAY!
WE'RE ABANDONING THE SHIP!?
WHAT ABOUT THE CABBAGE AND BEAN HARVESTS!?
STOP FIGHTING THE FIRE!
EVACUATE AT ONCE!
TATA-RA!
HF
HF
THIS IS WHERE WE WANT TO STAY!
EVEN IF SHE SINKS...
...WE'LL GO DOWN WITH HER!
YEAH!
YEAH!
SHNG
NO!
TATA-RA!?
SHOTA... HISHA...
NOBODY WILL LISTEN.
CHA-CHA'S STILL INSIDE.
WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THEM!

WHOA!
TATARA!?
SNAP
KREEEK
WOBBLE
THE MAST!
IT'LL FALL!
TATARA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THIS'LL MAKE YOU SEE IT'S A LOST CAUSE!
THE SHIP IS CRYING OUT!
SHE WANTS US TO ESCAPE!
THERE WILL BE NO SUICIDE!
HEAR ME!
I WON'T LET YOU SINK WITH THE SHIP!

THE SHIP LOVES YOU MORE.
ALL OF YOU LOVE THIS SHIP.
I DON'T THINK...
...THE SHIP WANTS TO TAKE YOU DOWN WITH HER.

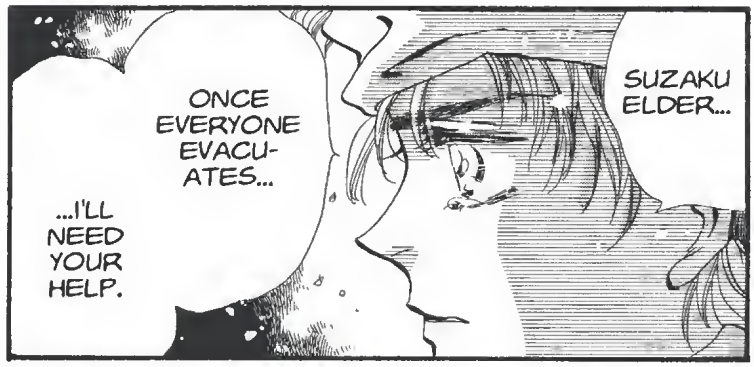

WHOA!
TATARA!
ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL DO IT!
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP...
...I'LL CUT DOWN EVERY-THING I SEE!
TATA-RA...

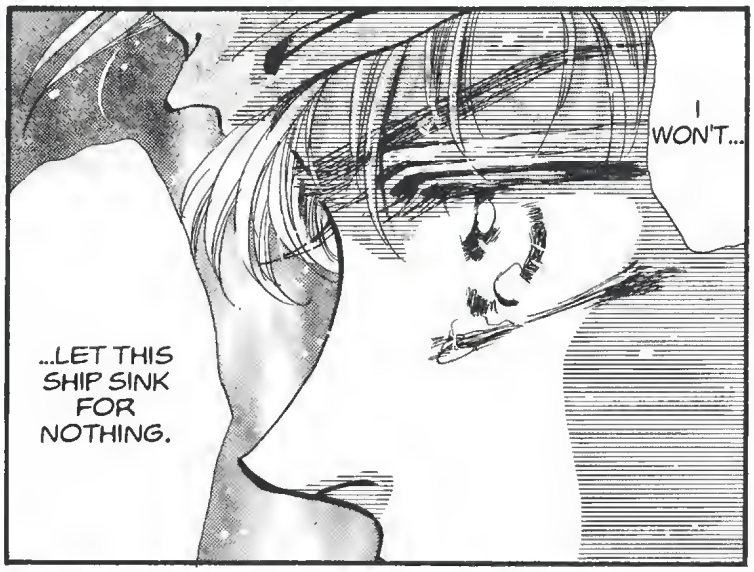
IF SHURI WERE HERE...
...HE'D PROBABLY HAVE KNOWN HOW TO PUT IT BETTER.
SHOTA...
HISHA...
I'M SORRY.
C'MON
LAUNCH THE LIFE-BOATS!
TM
TM
LEAVE IT TO US.
A-ALL RIGHT.
GOT THAT!?
NO!
YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE TATARA DO THIS!
WELL DONE.
THEY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

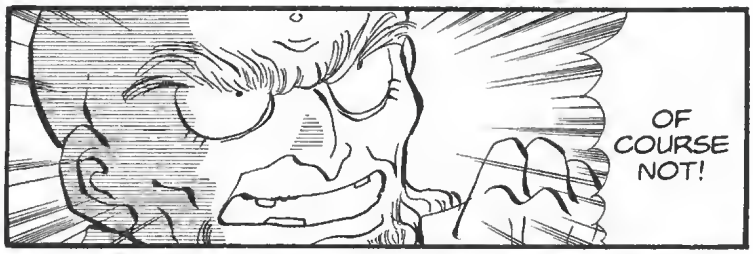
VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME: ②

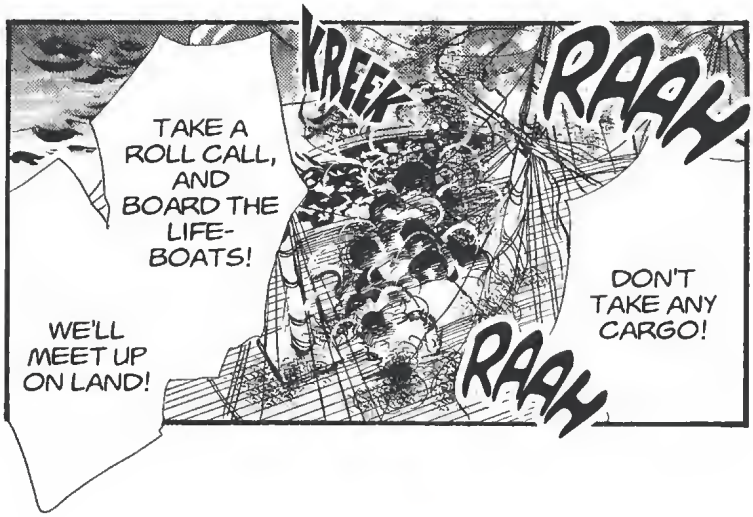
Meanwhile, Shuri.

TAMU









IZUMI!
WHERE'S PRINCESS SENJU?
KRITT
GOTCHA.
YATO!
LEAD THE OTHER HORSES!
KREEK
WE'RE CLOSE TO SHORE!
YOU CAN SWIM IF YOU WANT TO!
HOLD ON TO SOMETHING OR YOU'LL DROWN!
RRRAH RRRAH
THE OTHER WILL CATCH FIRE SOON.
THE SHIP WILL TURN INTO A FIREBALL.
HURRY!
KRIII
THERE ARE TWO ARMORIES, ONE ON EACH SIDE.
KREEK
ONE THEY BLEW UP ALREADY.
WHOA!
BMP
KREEK
SHE'LL SINK QUICKLY!

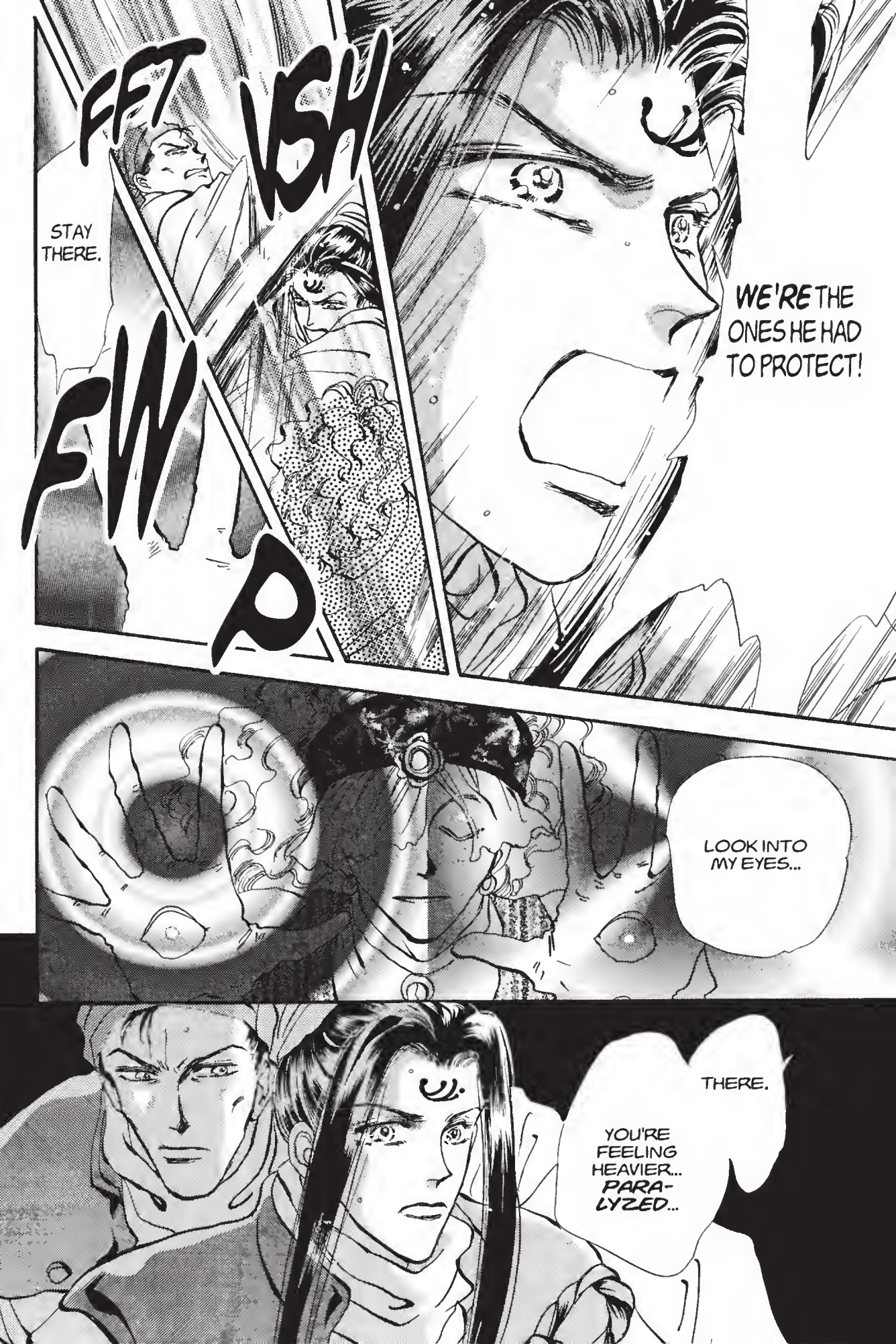
SIXTH SPRIG...
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO FIND YOU ALONE.
KUCH-INASHI -- "GARDENIA" ...
KRIT
ROB
MORE...
...OF THEM...

THIRD SPRIG.
PARRRR
HA
Y'ALL HAVE A DEATH WISH!?
WE'LL ALL DIE IF WE STAY HERE TOO LONG!
THE ONE WHO BLEW HIMSELF UP WAS CRAZY!
CLICK

GO!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE OUR HOMES A BETTER PLACE!
YEAH RIGHT!
KOF
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.
X-ATTACK!
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE...
...WE WANT TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE!
KASHIN!

Boom
KREEK
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?
IT'S NOT GONNA WORK HERE.
IT WILL.
THE ONE WE USED THREE YEARS AGO.
WHICH ONE WAS THAT?
WE GOTTA USE OUR LAST RESORT!
THIS GUY'S TOUGH.
THE X ATTACK DIDN'T WORK.
HF HF
FOURTH SPRIG
QUIT JUMPING AROUND!
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG!

HOOSH
KREEK
TMP
KREEEK
YOU...
YOU'RE STALLING FOR TIME.
KRIII
OUR JOB...
...IS TO GET TATARA AWAY...
FOOM
...FROM HIS SKILLED INNER CIRCLE.
THEN YOU UNDERESTIMATED HIM.
HE'S ALWAYS...
...GOTTEN THINGS DONE ON HIS OWN.
HE DID THEM BY HIMSELF SO MUCH...
...THAT WE FELT LEFT OUT.


FFT
ISH
FW
P
STAY THERE.
WE'RE THE ONES HE HAD TO PROTECT!
LOOK INTO MY EYES...
THERE.
YOU'RE FEELING HEAVIER... PARA-LYZED...

WMP
KO
SWAK
FIFTH SPRIG
YOUNG MAN.
DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE?
I DO.
I WAS BORN IN A FISHING TOWN UP IN THE NORTH.
HFF HFF
A BOW!

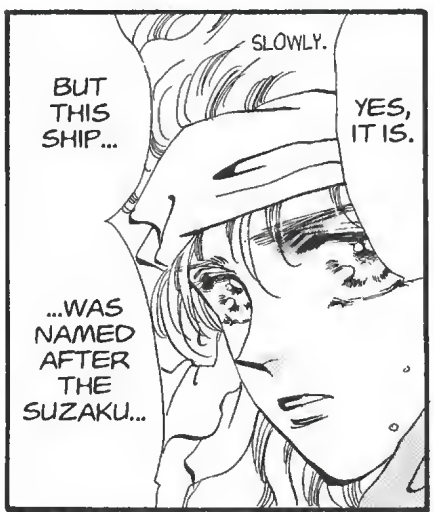
I WANDERED, LOST.
I WALKED...
...FOR DAYS ON END.
NATURALLY, I WAS SENT TO ABASHIRI PRISON.
I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE.
IT WAS AWFUL.
I LED A GROUP OF REBELS AGAINST THE BLACK KING.
CAN YOU IMAGINE?
...THE SAME DESOLATION EVERYWHERE.
AND I SAW...
THERE WAS NONE OF THAT ANYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY!
ALL I WANTED WAS A LIFE...
...OF PEACE, HAPPINESS...
...AND WARMTH!

KAKU!
GMP
OH YEAH?
WELL...
...YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
TH
OK
OH, SHUT UP!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CHIT-CHAT!
D
HAYATO!
STAB HIM...
...WITH THE SWORD, THROUGH ME!
W

KREEK
KRITT
HE'S CLOSE BY.
BOOM
KRITT
IS HIIRAGI HERE, TOO?
BUT THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO ASK FOR HIS PARTICIPATION.
KRK
KREEK
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE?
SIXTH SPRIG
I WILL SUFFICE TO...
YOU SURE TALK A LOT FOR A *TWIG*.

AGEHA!
REMEMBER ME?
KREEK
SURE!
TAKE PRIN-CESS SENJU.
SHF
I BOUGHT A NEW SWORD.
I'D LIKE TO TEST ITS BLADE OUT ON YOU.

KREEK
RAAH
WAAH
KRII
DADDY!
AGEHA CAN GET HIMSELF OUT OF ANYTHING.
WILL AGEHA BE ALL RIGHT?


SLOWLY.
BUT THIS SHIP...
YES, IT IS.
...WAS NAMED AFTER THE SUZAKU...

IS THIS SHIP SINKING?

I HAVE TO TRUST...
...THAT THE OTHERS WILL BE FINE, TOO.

YOU'RE THE LAST GROUP LEFT.
YES!
KRIIH
THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM!
DID EVERY-ONE GET AWAY?
WE'LL LEAVE ONE LIFEBOAT FOR YOU!

A SUZAKU...
...IS A FIERY, IMMORTAL BIRD.

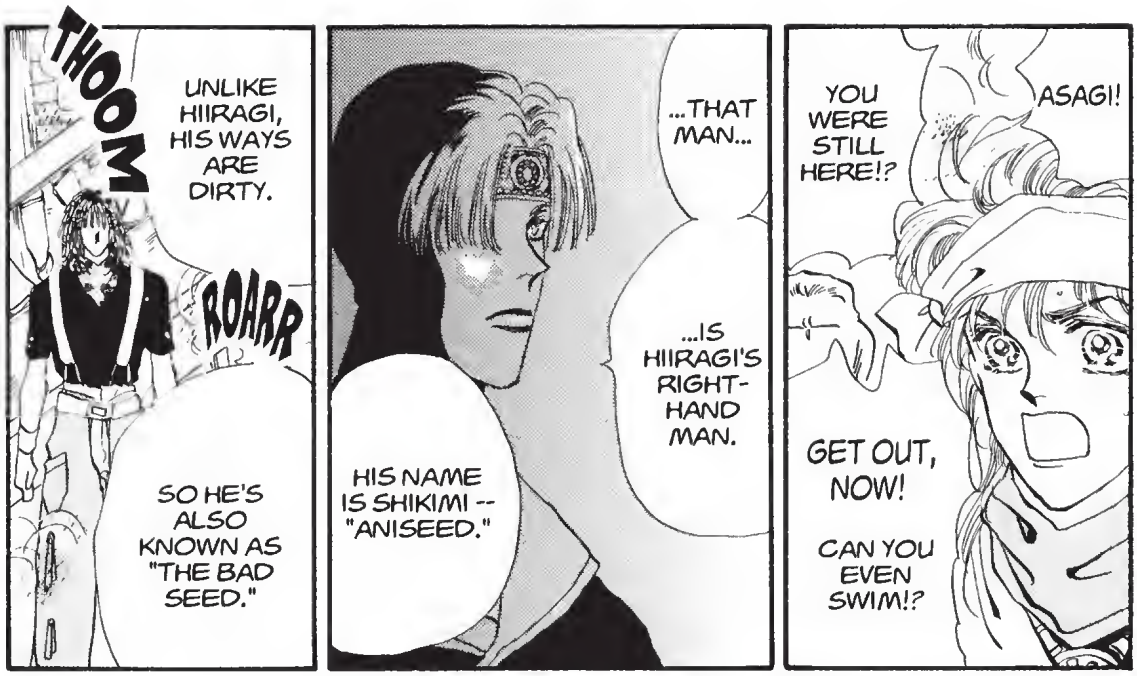
MOOO!
NO!
I TOLD YOU, WE CAN'T FIT THEM!
HARU, TAKE CARE OF HER!
BE CARE-FUL, PRIN-CESS!
SURE THING!
MOO
I CAN'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND!
WHEN WE GET TO SHORE...
...GIVE US A DRINK OF MILK.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
KRIII
TAKE THE LAST BOAT.
WE CAN SWIM.

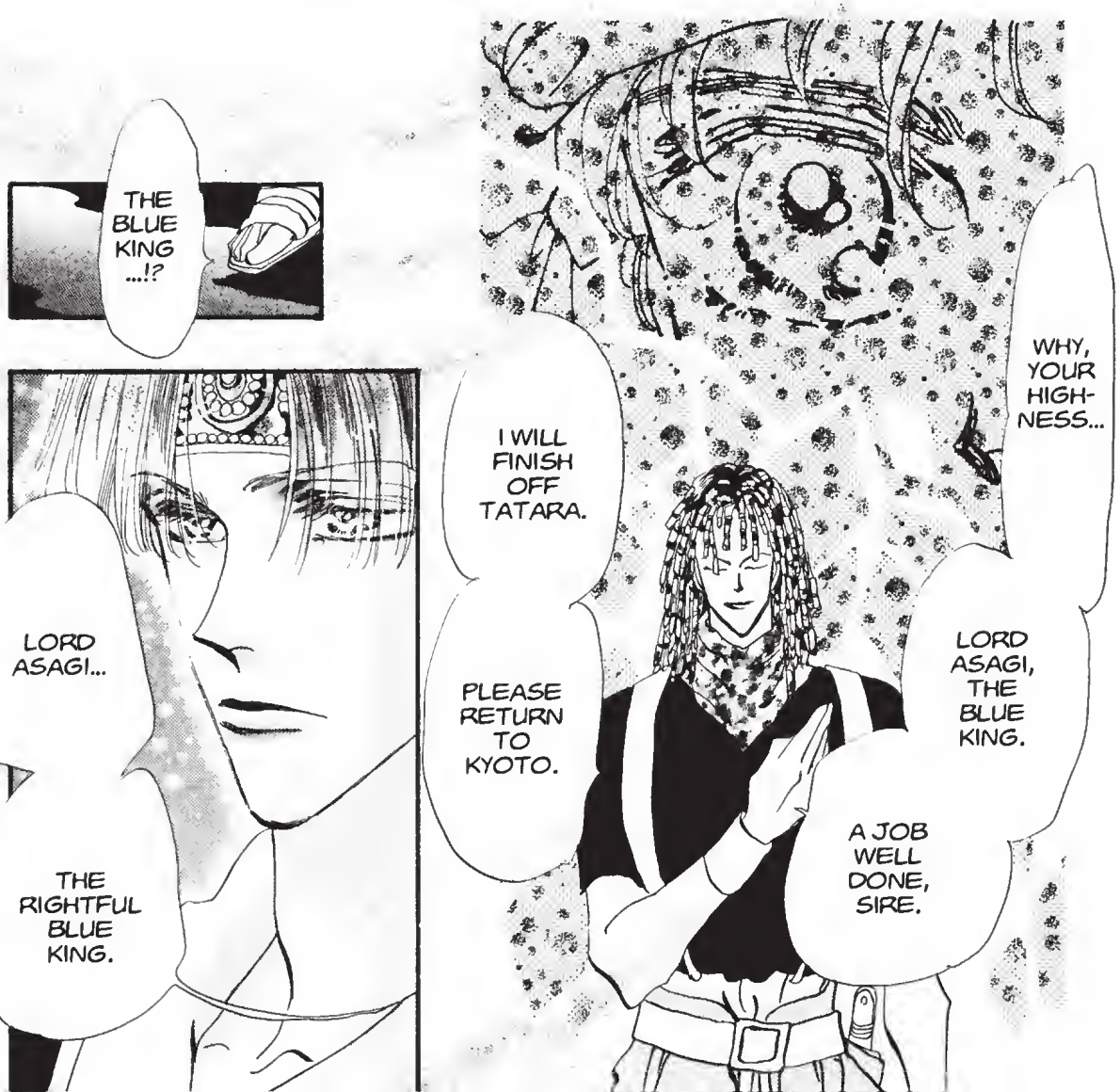
THEY'RE TOO SCARED TO MOVE!
MOO
MOO
PULL!
THANKS!
PUSH!
ON THREE!
POUF
FST
KREEK
KOF
HURRY!
THE SHIP IS STARTING TO LIST A LITTLE!
OW, HOT!
PAT
PAT

NO.
HURRY!
YOU DIDN'T BURN YOUR HAND, DID YOU?
TH-THANK YOU.
WHAT?
I HAVE A HEART, TOO, YOU KNOW.
TATARA, DON'T TAKE TOO LONG!
ZSSH
ZSH
BE CAREFUL!
ONCE PEOPLE HAVE SOMETHING -- OR SOMEONE...
... TO PROTECT, THEY CAN BE VERY STRONG INDEED.
YOU'VE BECOME MORE RELAXED AND COMPOSED THAN BEFORE, TOO.
ZSH
ZSH
WHAT?
ZSH
HOW...
...CAN SHE REMAIN SO CALM?

THIS IS THE LAST SPIN O' THE HELM!
ALL RIGHT!
ELDER, SHE'S ALL YOURS!
WHAT!? BUT LORD TENMA!
PULL BACK.
WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE.
TATA-RA'S SHIP!
IT'S START-ED TO MOVE!
KRIT
WOBBLE
KRIT
KRAK
KRAK
KREEK
FFT
WE'LL ESCAPE ALIVE...
ALL OF US!
KREEK
KAKU...
CHA-CHA...
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
EVERY-ONE...

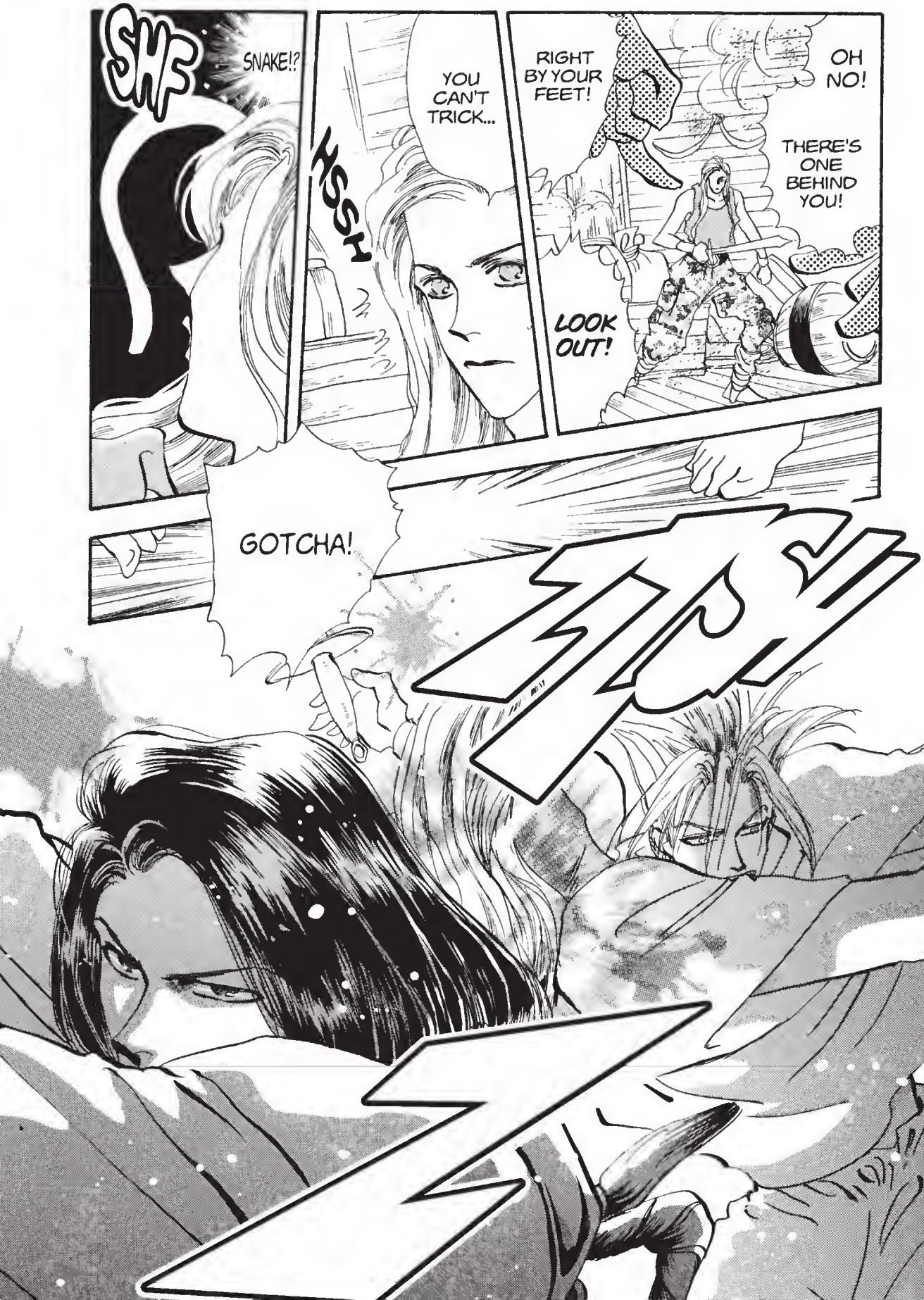
WAK
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON YOU PEOPLE!
STAY OUT OF IT!
BOOM
I AM THE SEVENTH SPRIG...
DSH
TK


THOOM
UNLIKE HIIRAGI, HIS WAYS ARE DIRTY.
ROARR
SO HE'S ALSO KNOWN AS "THE BAD SEED."
HIS NAME IS SHIKIMI -- "ANISEED."
...IS HIIRAGI'S RIGHT-HAND MAN.
...THAT MAN...
YOU WERE STILL HERE!?
ASAGI!
GET OUT, NOW!
CAN YOU EVEN SWIM!?


THE BLUE KING ...!?
LORD ASAGI...
THE RIGHTFUL BLUE KING.
I WILL FINISH OFF TATARA.
PLEASE RETURN TO KYOTO.
WHY, YOUR HIGH-NESS...
LORD ASAGI, THE BLUE KING.
A JOB WELL DONE, SIRE.

YOU NEVER TRUSTED ME ANYWAY.
PLSH
YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS A PAIN IN THE NECK.
PLSH
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
IS THIS SUCH A SUR-PRISE?
...I ALSO THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND AND COMRADE.
I DID, BUT...
I'LL SIT HERE AND WATCH.
GET THIS OVER WITH, WILL YOU?
HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?
EVEN IF YOU'RE THE BLUE KING...
...AREN'T YOU ONE OF US NOW?

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
BMP
OH YEAH.
HE'S NOT GOOD AT ALL WITH THE SWORD...
...BUT HE USES POISON DARTS.
WOBBLE
TNK
!?
LORD ASAGI!
WE HAVE A RIDDLE FOR YOU!
IDIOTS.
WHAT AM I!?
...AND ONE BITE WILL KILL YA!
WHAT AM I!?
I ALSO HAVE SPOTS...
I HAVE A TRIANGULAR HEAD...
...AND I'M LONG AND SLITHERY!


SHF
SNAKE!?
YOU CAN'T TRICK...
HSSH
RIGHT BY YOUR FEET!
OH NO!
THERE'S ONE BEHIND YOU!
LOOK OUT!
GOTCHA!
HSSH

YOU THREW A ROPE!
I THOUGHT A REAL SNAKE WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
THANKS! YOU'RE SO NICE!
BUT IT DID WORK, SO WHO CARES?
LET'S GO!
WE'RE NOT IN A FOREST.
YOUR "TRICK" WAS NEVER GOING TO WORK!
MURATAKE!
POP
THUD
THAT WAS A WEAK PLAN!
WE'D ALMOST DIED ONCE BEFORE.
OUR OLD WOUNDS STILL BOTHER US SOMETIMES.
THK
THK

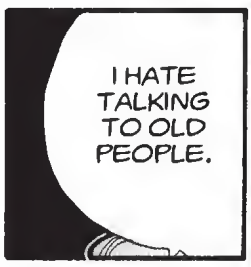
COME ON, ZAKI!
WE CAN'T FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON A SHODDY TRICK!
HAYATO...
IF I KILLED KAKU...
...TATARA WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME.
THE POINT OF AN ARCHER IS TO NAIL A TARGET...
...NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE GAP.

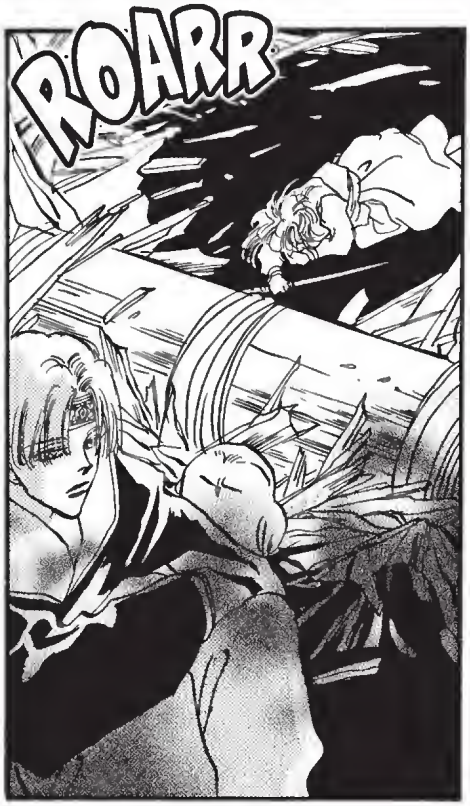
A DEAD MAN SPEAKS NO WORDS.
WHOOSH
YOUR MOVES..
BUT YOU HAVE THE CAST...
...OF DEATH ON YOUR FACE...
...ARE AS GRACE-FUL AS DANCE.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
ZMP

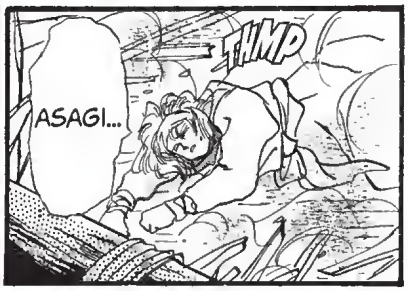
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
AND YET I KNOW...
...I WILL NEVER STOP.
SNAP
MY VILLAGE WAS BURNED...
MY SHIP WAS BURNED...
YOU CAN'T MOVE.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD AND CARRY IT BACK.
EASY MONEY.
HFF
HFF
THE AGE OF FIGHTING WITH SHIPS...
...HAS ENDED.
THANKS TO YOU, NOW I KNOW.
KREEK
SARASA, THIS WAY!
WE'RE AL-MOST THERE...
IT'S CLOSE.
THE WAY TO KYOTO...
...ISN'T FAR OVER LAND.

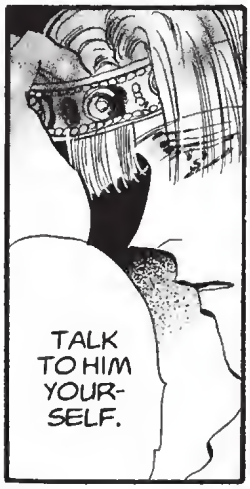
KRAK KRAK KRAK
NOW THEN...
THE HEAD...
HE'S LEADING THE WAY.
SHURI...
NOT YET...
I CAN'T DIE YET.
THE MAST...!
NOT UNTIL I SEE HISTORY PLAY ITSELF OUT!

THUD
I MUST LIVE!


I HATE TALKING TO OLD PEOPLE.


ROARR


THMP
ASAGI...


TALK TO HIM YOUR-SELF.

I KNOW...
TAKE THE SUZAKU ELDER.
...HE'S PLANNING TO SINK WITH THE SHIP...

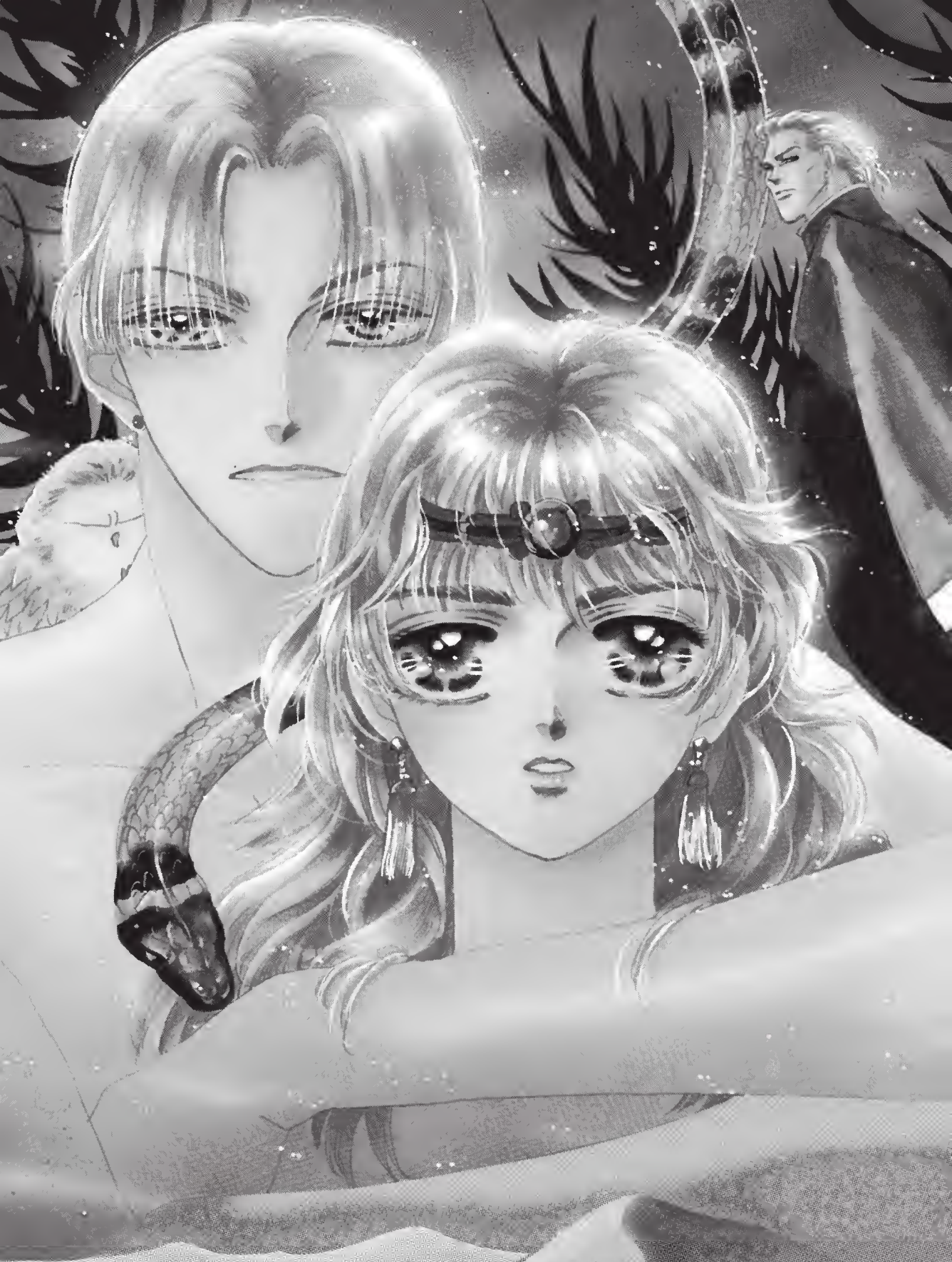
A FIERY PHOENIX...
IT WILL RISE AGAIN FROM ITS ASHES.
A SUZAKU IS AN IMMORTAL BIRD.
TATARA!
YOU KNOW HIM?
MURATAKE!?
WE'LL BE BLOWN UP WITH IT!
GET OUT OF ITS WAY!
WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
TATARA'S SHIP IS GOING TO RAM US!
OH NO!
COUNCILOR!

A SPLENDID, FITTING END.
YEAH...
THERE IT SINKS.
ALONG WITH THE ROYAL NAVY.
HOW IS SHE?
I GAVE HER THE ANTIDOTE THE ENEMY WAS CARRYING.
THANKS, ASAGI.
GOOD JOB.
RAAH RAAH
SO THIS...
...IS TATARA.

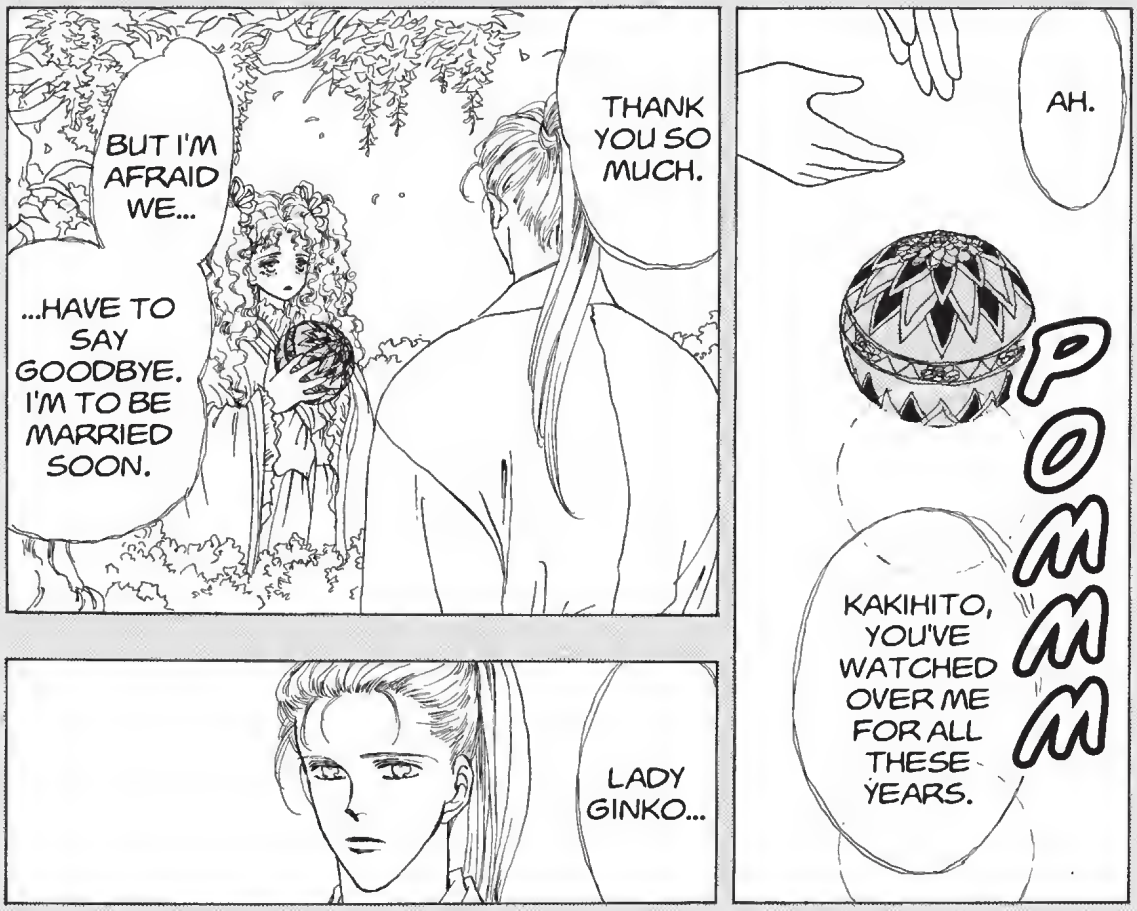
NACHI!
WHERE'S NACHI!?
PLACE TATARA ON THIS. HUP!
LET'S GO TO SHIKO-KU.
SPSH SPSH
TATARA'S QUICK DECISION WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
GRAB ON.
A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED IN TIME IF WE'D HESITATED.
I ALMOST DROWNED!
NA-CHI...
BUT THEN THIS WHITE DOLPHIN SAVED ME!
SPLOOSH
WOO-HOO!
AND NO, WE NEVER MET BEFORE.
BYE!
THANKS FOR SAVIN' ME AGAIN! BYE!
SEE, HE WAS THE ONE I'D MET BEFORE!

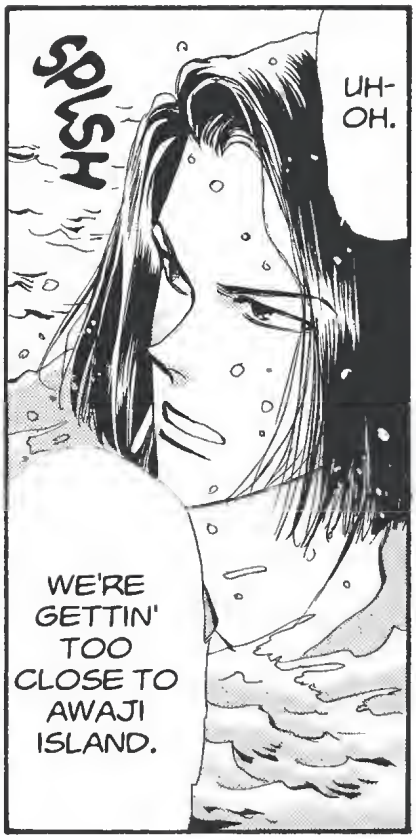
"TO TATA-RA...
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN KYOTO."
HE DIDN'T DROWN, DID HE?
OH YEAH, WHERE'S AGEHA!?
NO WAY.
DADDY!
SHINBASHI!
THERE'S A LETTER TIED TO HIS LEG.
ANAP
ANAP
ANAP
HEY, IT'S KAGERO!
WE'LL SHOW THEM!
YES, IT'S FINALLY TIME TO GO TO KYOTO!
YEAH!
PLSH PLSH
HE'S FAST.
HE LEFT ALREADY?
KYOTO...
THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS THE END OF HIM.
I THINK YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT HIIRAGI FIRST.

ZSSH
ZSH
GOOD LUCK, TATARA.



VIOLET TALE 5: TRACE OF LOVE


AH.
POMM
KAKIHITO, YOU'VE WATCHED OVER ME FOR ALL THESE YEARS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
BUT I'M AFRAID WE...
...HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE. I'M TO BE MARRIED SOON.
LADY GINKO...
IT'S ALL BEEN ARRANGED FOR ME.
THE PLACE IS CALLED AWAJI ISLAND. FATHER TELLS ME IT'S IMPORTANT FOR OUR KINGDOM.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME (3)

Things that seem likely in the world of BASARA, but aren't.

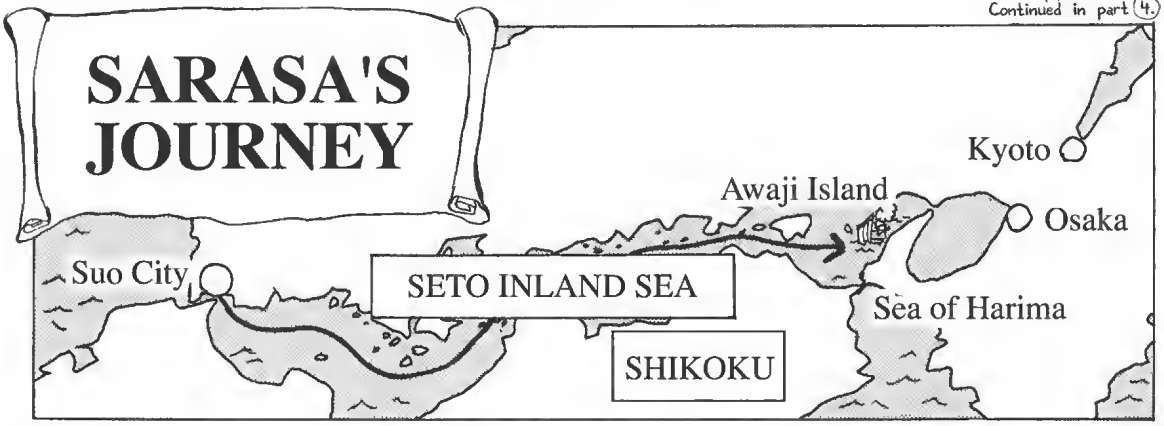
Women who are career soldiers. They don't exist.

There are female leaders at the grassroots level (like Chacha). But besides noblewomen and princesses, the kingdom doesn't have women in official positions of status.
That's just the way it is.
So Ichimatsu is a guy.

BORING, ISN'T IT?

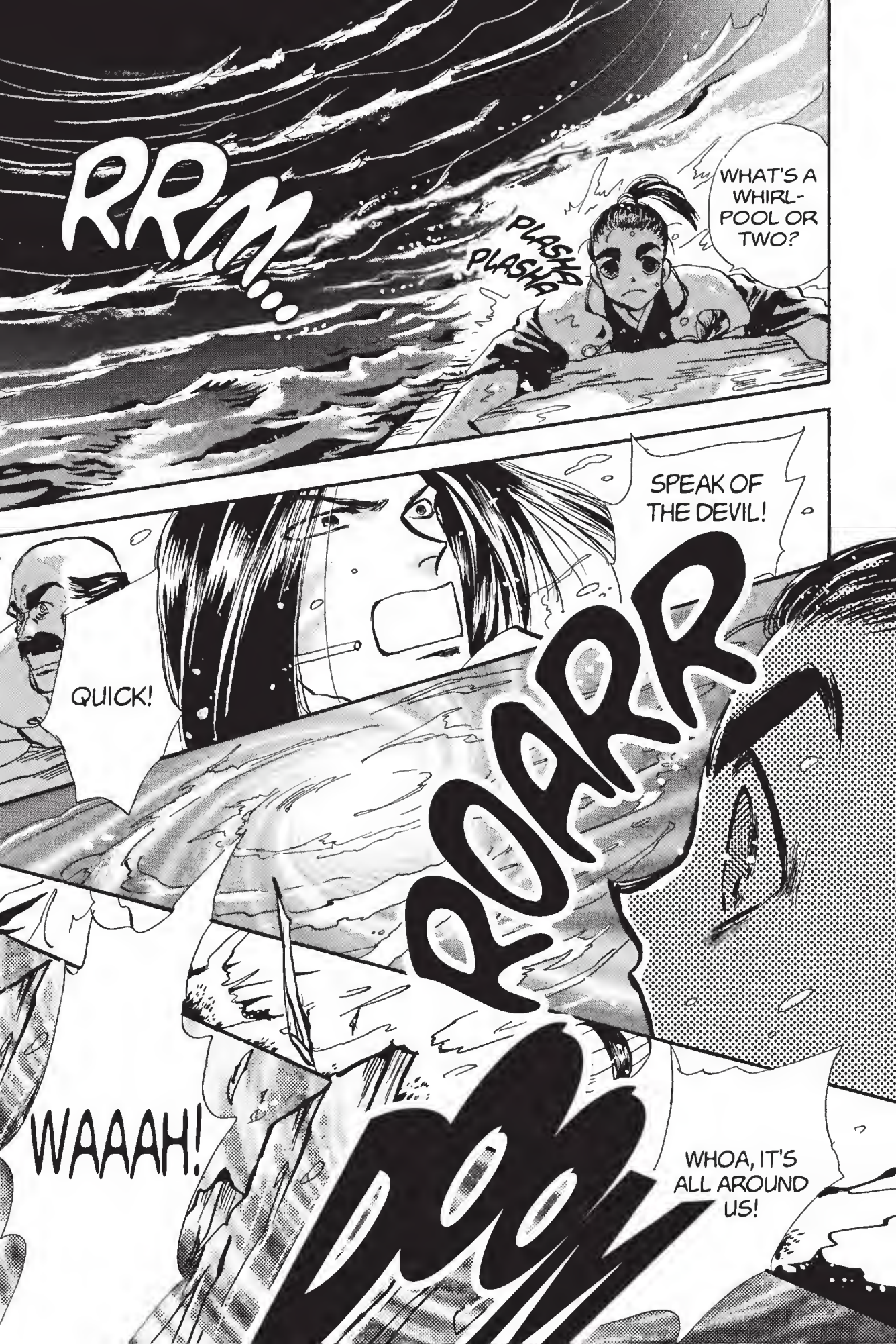
TAKU

Continued in part (4).



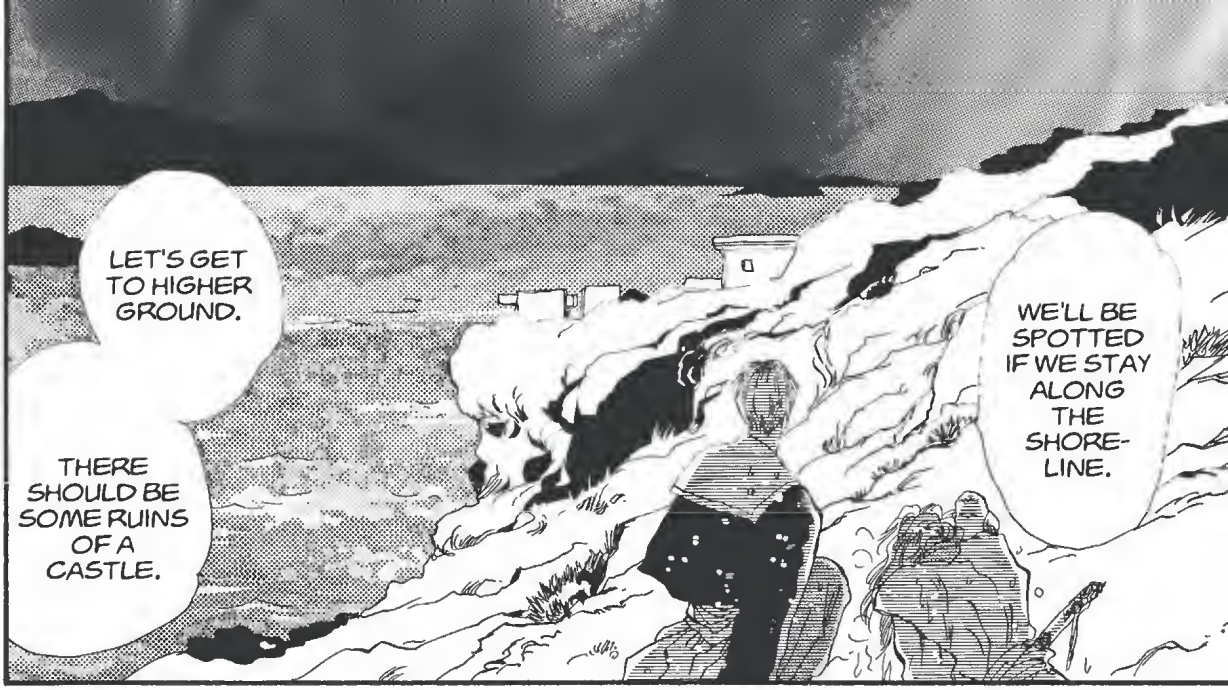
YOU'RE AWAKE!
TATA-RA!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
SPLASH
THEN...
...WE HAVE TO STRIKE...!
SPLISH
SPLISH
FROM HERE, YOU CAN SEE...
SHIKO-KU...
...OSAKA, AND THE INLAND SEA. PER-FECT FOR A BASE.
YOU'VE BEEN POISONED.
DON'T TRY TO GET UP.
YES...
TATA-RA!?
NOW WHAT?
POK
ASA-GI...
PLISH

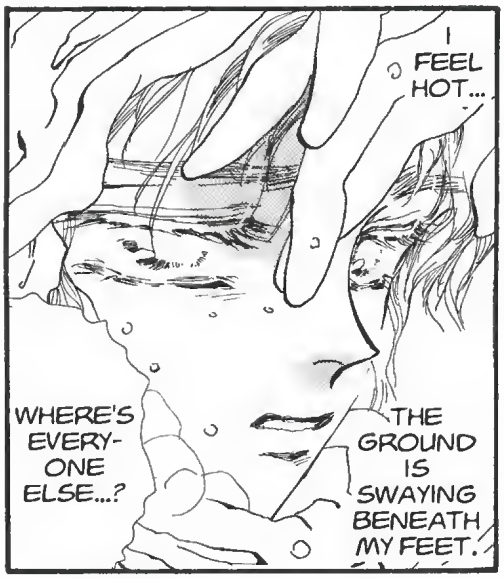
ASAGI...
ASAGI SAVED YOU, YOU KNOW.
JUST SLEEP.
PLSH
PLSH
.....
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, BUT...
THE ENEMY WAS WASHED ASHORE, TOO.
PLSH PLSH
...AND TAKE THE ISLAND BY STORM?
...SHALL WE EXPLOIT THIS CHAOS...
AS TATA-RA SAID...
THE TIDES IN THIS STRAIT...
...CAUSE WHIRL-POOLS FROM TIME TO TIME.
PLSHSH
START KICKIN', EVERY-ONE!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, HIJIRI!
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
TRY AGAIN LATER.
NOT HERE.
OH!
THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND IS TOO RISKY.


RRM...
PLASHA PLASHA
WHAT'S A WHIRL-POOL OR TWO?
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
QUICK!
ROARR
WAAAH!
WHOA, IT'S ALL AROUND US!

GOODBYE, KAKIHITO.
COME VISIT ME ON AWAJI ISLAND.
KAKI-HITO!
BYE!
TAKE CARE!
LADY GIN-KO.
KAKI-HITO...
I KEEP HEARING...
A VOICE...
!
TATARA!
HERE, GRAB ON TO THIS ROCK!
ZSH
COME ON!
GLUB

SSS
SLASH
YANK
DON'T MAKE ME WANT TO LET YOU DROWN!
I WON'T HOLD ON FOR-EVER!
GET UP HERE!
ZZSS
HSZZ


LET'S GET TO HIGHER GROUND.
THERE SHOULD BE SOME RUINS OF A CASTLE.
WE'LL BE SPOTTED IF WE STAY ALONG THE SHORE-LINE.

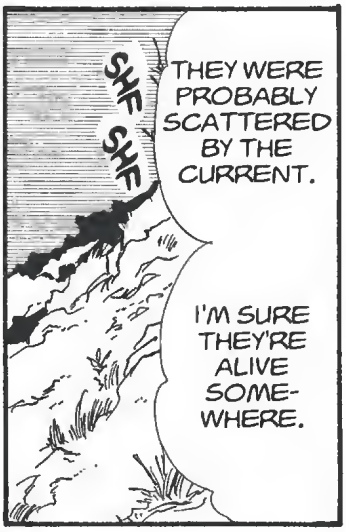

I FEEL HOT...
WHERE'S EVERY-ONE ELSE...?
THE GROUND IS SWAYING BENEATH MY FEET.

BUT I HEARD ENOUGH...
SHF SHF
...FROM SOMEONE WHO LIVED HERE. ENOUGH TO TIRE OF IT.

ARE WE... ON AWAJI ISLAND?
HF HF
YOU'VE BEEN HERE BE-FORE?
NO, NEVER.
TMF-TMF

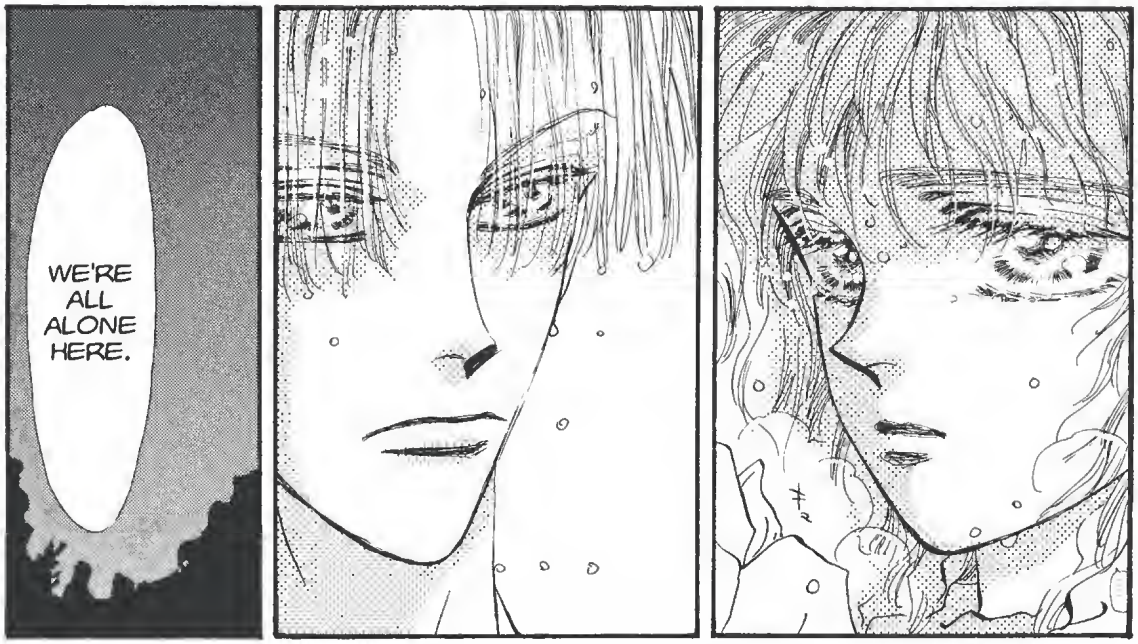
I'M SURE SHURI...
DON'T EXPECT ANY HELP FROM ME.
...WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE CARRYING HER AROUND.

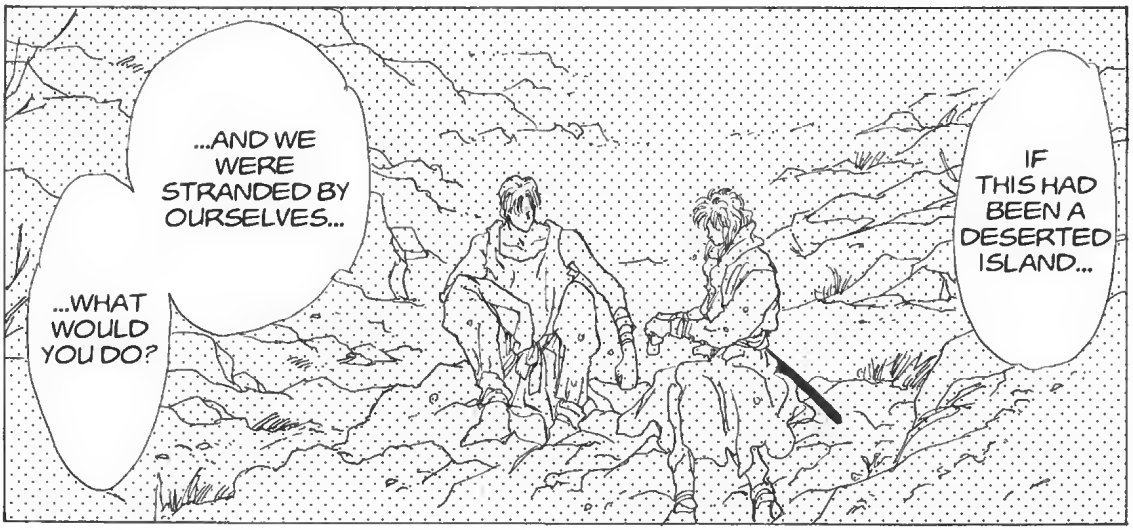
WOBBLE

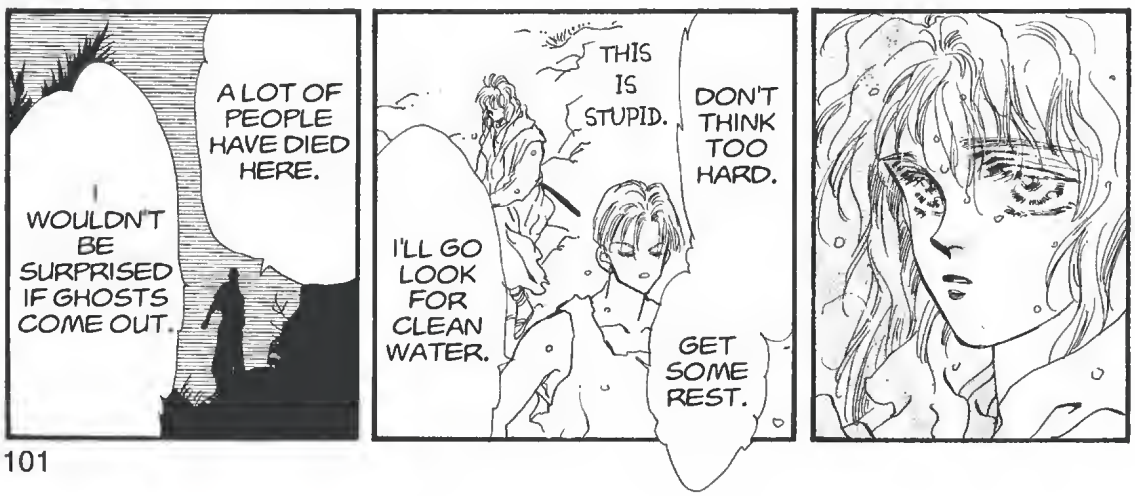

SHF SHF
THEY WERE PROBABLY SCATTERED BY THE CURRENT.
I'M SURE THEY'RE ALIVE SOME-WHERE.

THERE USED TO BE A STATELY CASTLE ON THE ISLAND.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A SMALL FORT AND A GUN BATTERY.
THOSE ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THIS PLACE IS DESERTED, SO IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE.
ASA-GI.
DID YOU GET HURT? I'M SORRY.
I HAVE SOME MEDICI-NAL HERBS.
FIRST AID KIT
PANT PANT
I'M WORRIED.
HUFF PUFF
ROGER.
HERE.
COULD YOU LOOK FOR THE OTHERS, SHIN-BASHI?

DON'T TOUCH ME.
TUG


WE'RE ALL ALONE HERE.


...AND WE WERE STRANDED BY OURSELVES...
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
IF THIS HAD BEEN A DESERTED ISLAND...


A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE DIED HERE.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF GHOSTS COME OUT.
THIS IS STUPID.
DON'T THINK TOO HARD.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR CLEAN WATER.
GET SOME REST.

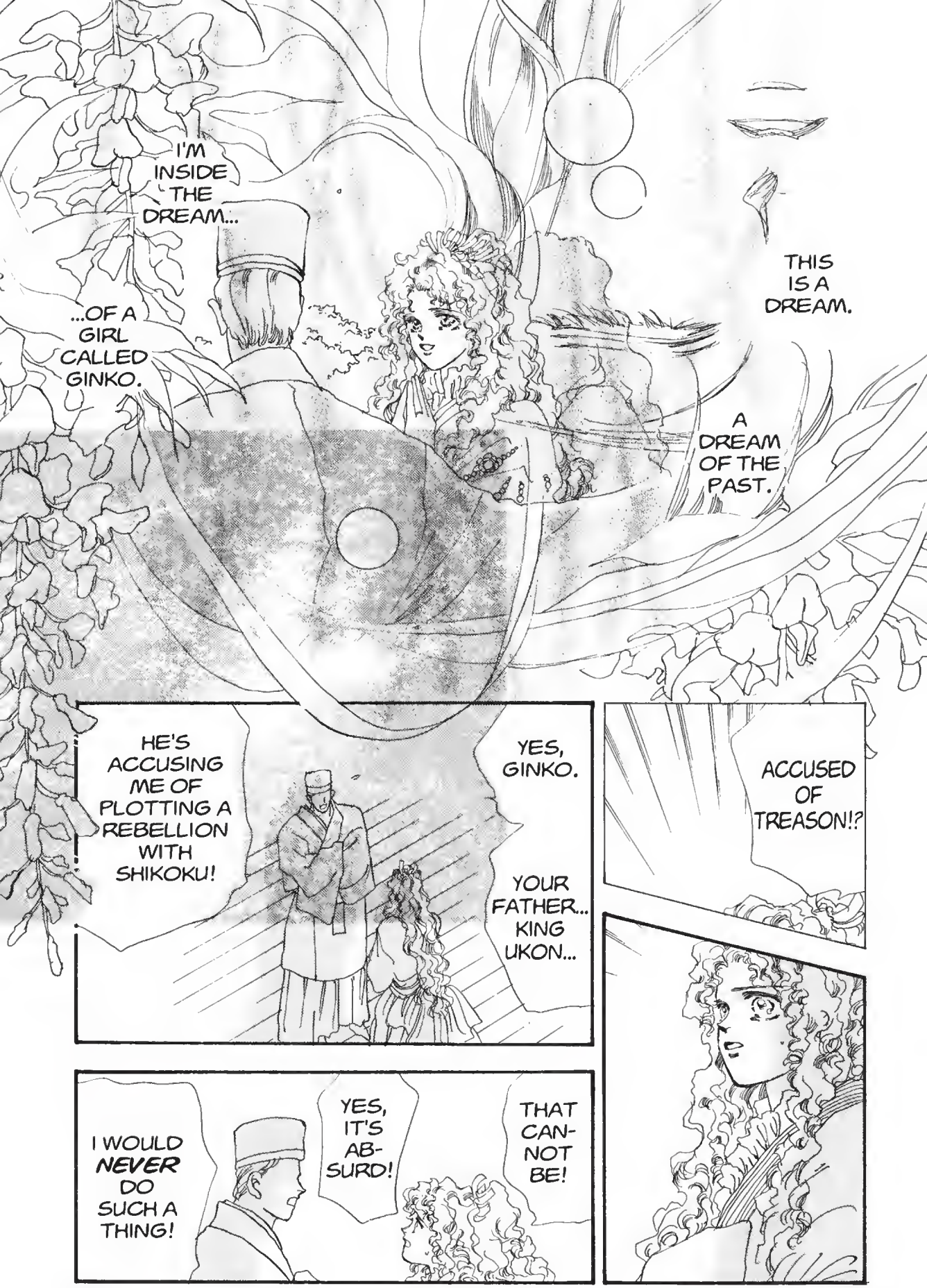
AN EMBROIDERED BALL...?
I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TO-GETHER.
PHEW...
HIIRAGI WOULD BE MORE LIKELY.
AH! LADY GINKO!?
...COULD THAT BE YOU...?
LADY GINKO...

SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
THE REMAINS OF THE CASTLE!
MISTER. AREN'T 'YA HOT?
HEY.

ARE YOU ONE...
...OF TATA-RA'S MEN?
HOT?
I SEE FLAMES SPEWIN' FROM YOUR BODY.
WATCH OUT, OR YA MIGHT GIT BURNED.
SEND THEM A REPLY.
AND SEND A LETTER..
...TO EITHER TENMA OR NAGI.
WE'LL SCOUT THE ISLAND, SO...
...TATARA SHOULD REST FOR THE NIGHT.
NOW?
WHAT!?
TATARA'S WITH ASAGI!?
PHEW
THEY DRIFTED QUITE A DISTANCE FROM US.
GREAT!
THEY'RE HIDING IN THE REMAINS OF A CASTLE.

WHEN HE CLAIMS HE HATES SOMETHING, HE REALLY LIKES IT.
HEH HEH
PUT SOME PANTS ON.
KICK
ANY-WAY!
HE SEEMS LIKE A SPOILED RICH BOY...
...BUT HE'S GONE THROUGH SOME HARD TIMES.
I LIKE HIM.
MURATAKE DISAPPEARED AGAIN.
WRING
I DON'T LIKE HOW SHE'S WITH ASAGI.
IT BOTHERS ME. I DON'T LIKE IT.
WE'LL TAKE OVER AWAJI ISLAND!
LET'S BRING TATARA A TROPHY.
YES.
THAT WAS ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO, IT WAS.
OH. PAR-DON ME.
A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU COULD NOT BE LADY GINKO.
LADY GIN-KO...?

SHE IS KING UKON'S DAUGHTER, BUT...
POMM
...A WOMAN CANNOT SUCCEED TO THE THRONE.
SUCH A LOVELY, SWEET GIRL.
PRINCESSES GET MARRIED OFF YOUNG.
SO THE VICEROY OF THIS ISLAND TOOK HER AS HIS WIFE.
IT WAS A POLITICAL MARRIAGE, BUT...
POMM
THEY LOOKED SO HAPPY TOGETHER.
...THEY WERE A LOVING COUPLE.
POMM
VOICES...
IS THIS... REAL...?
IT SEEMED THEY WOULD LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
BUT ALAS, THAT WAS NOT TO BE...
...FADING INTO THE NIGHT...

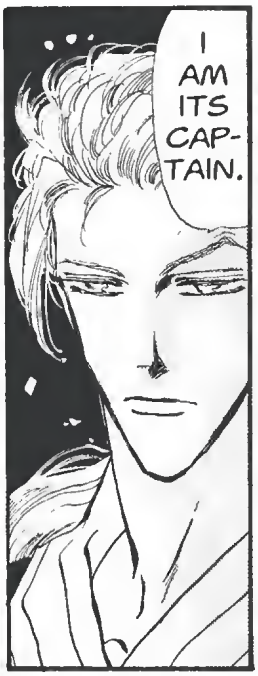

I'M INSIDE THE DREAM...
...OF A GIRL CALLED GINKO.
THIS IS A DREAM.
A DREAM OF THE PAST.
HE'S ACCUSING ME OF PLOTTING A REBELLION WITH SHIKOKU!
YES, GINKO.
YOUR FATHER... KING UKON...
ACCUSED OF TREASON!?
I WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!
YES, IT'S AB-SURD!
THAT CAN-NOT BE!

OH
HE'D NEVER...
OH OH
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY.
I'M HIS DAUGHTER.
HE WOULD NEVER INVADE WITH ME HERE!
WE'LL BE FINE.
FATHER IS ONLY ANXIOUS.
HE PANICS WHEN HE SEES ABUNDANCE SOMEPLACE ELSE.
YOU ARE A TRAITOR TO THE CROWN!
BAM
LORD AWAJI!
FATHER!
THEY'VE DECIMATED MANY A VILLAGE AND CASTLE!
A COMMANDO UNIT COMPOSED OF YOUNG ADEPTS!
THE OCHRE! THEY'RE HERE!
OCHRE?
WE ARE HERE...
OH
OH
...TO LAY WASTE TO THE CASTLE AND BRING BACK YOUR HEADS!

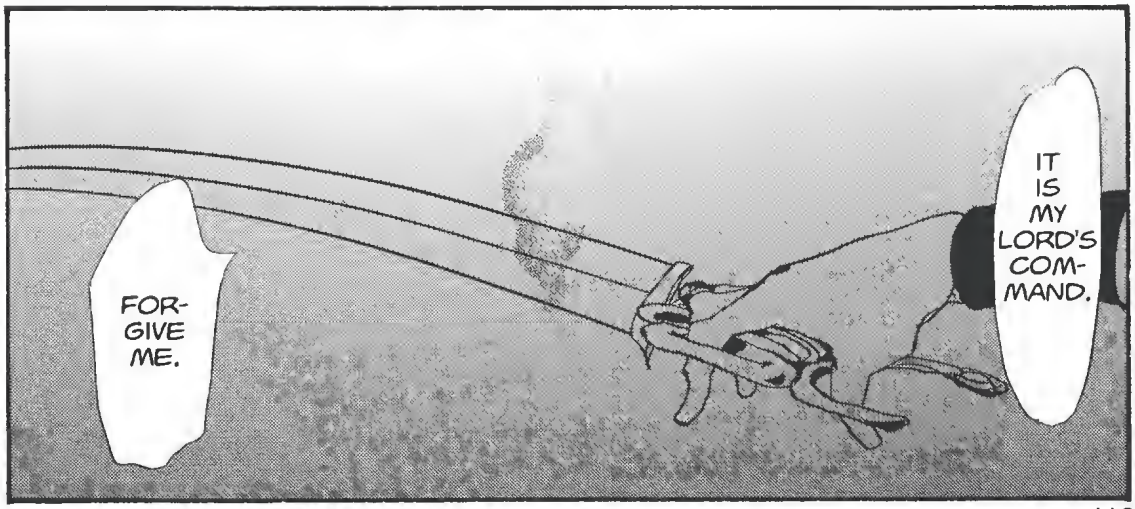
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
DON'T YOU CARE?
THEY WON'T TAKE YOUR LIFE...
NO, MY LORD!
GINKO.
YOU MUST ESCAPE BEFORE THEY BURN THE CASTLE DOWN.
...TO BE WITH YOU!
I WISH...
BAM
LADY GINKO!
FATHER, WHAT ABOUT ME!?
WHAT ABOUT ME!?

...BACK TO KYOTO UNHARMED.
I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO BRING LADY GINKO...

YOU CAME HERE...
THIS IS YOUR DOING?
...TO DESTROY MY LIFE?


I AM ITS CAPTAIN.

KAKIHITO!?
YOU'RE IN THE OCHRE?
IS IT YOU!?


FORGIVE ME.
IT IS MY LORD'S COMMAND.

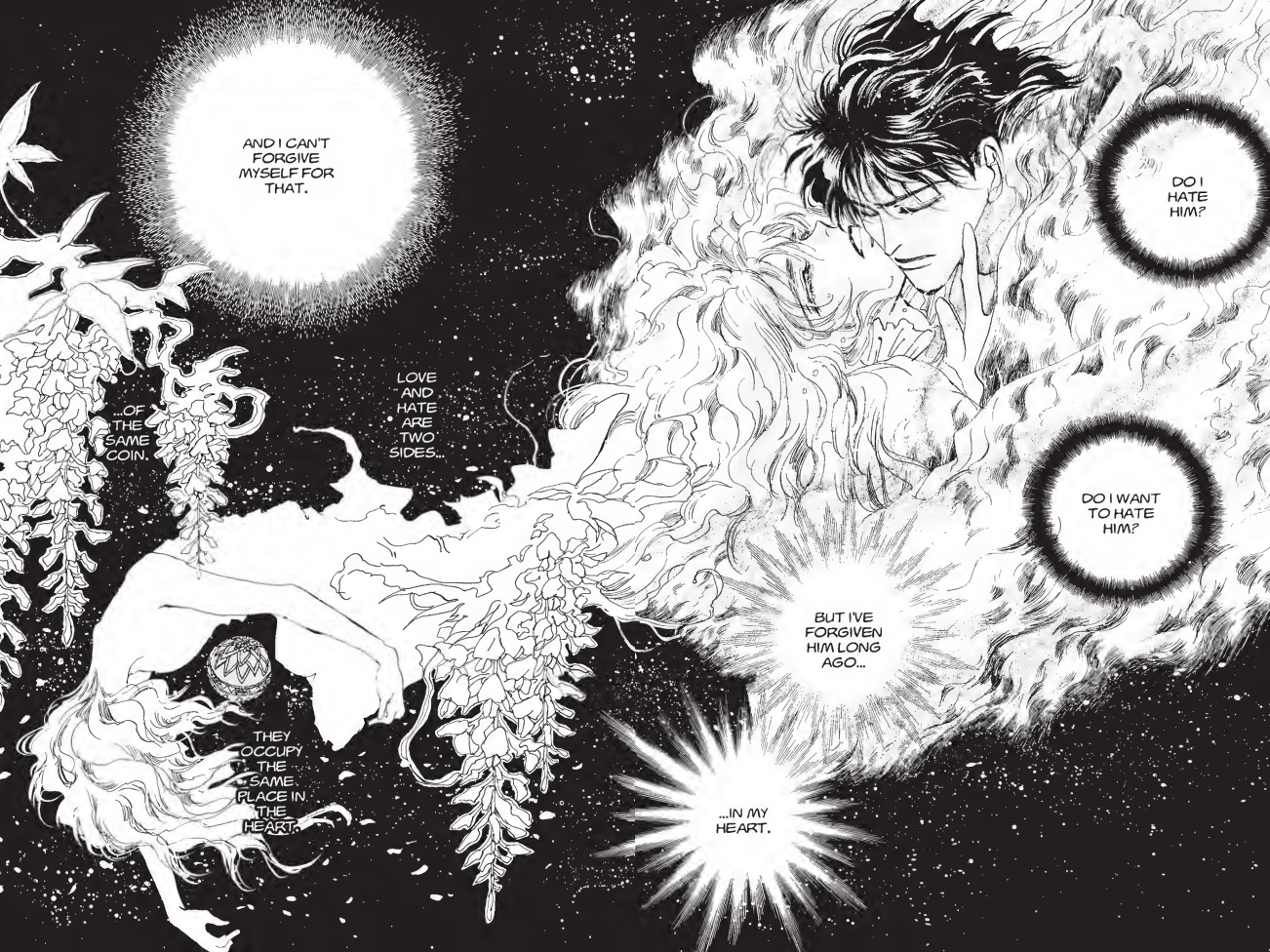
AAAA
AAAA
AA

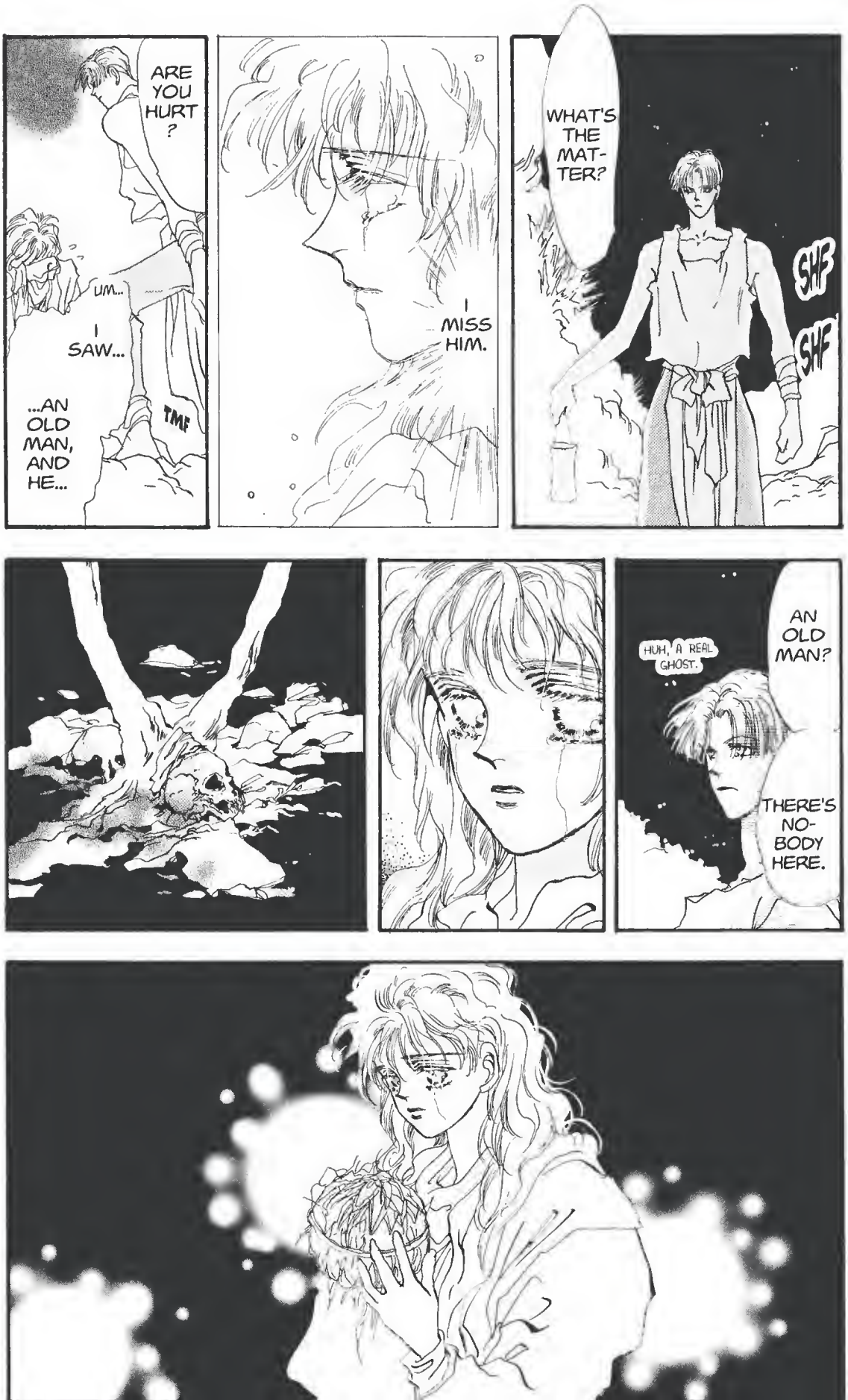
SHURI!
COME, LADY GINKO.
LET US GO.
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
DON'T TOUCH ME WITH THOSE HANDS!
YOUR HANDS ARE STAINED WITH BLOOD!
YOU KILLED THE PEOPLE I LOVE!

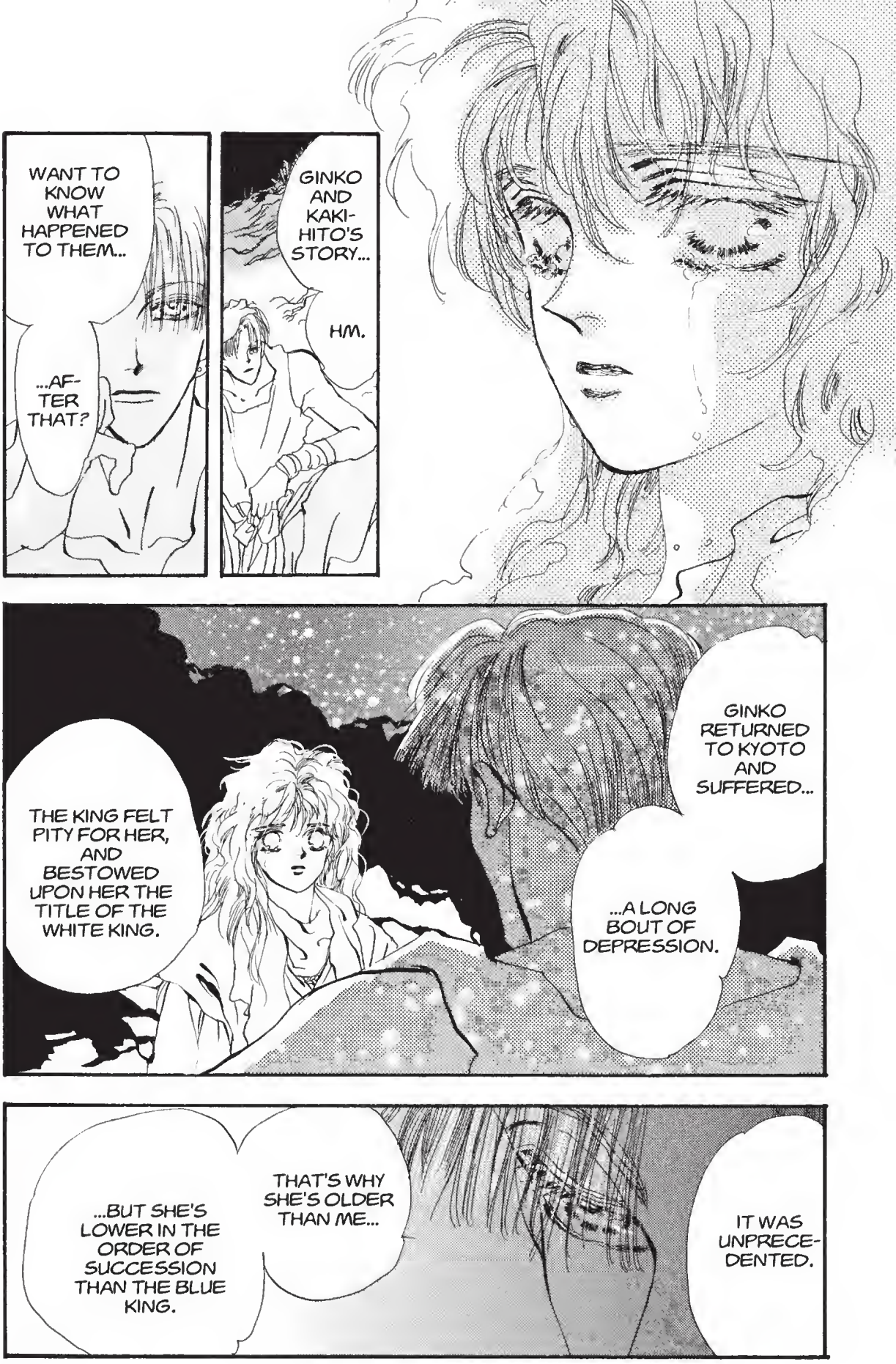
LADY GINKO!
BOMB
GIVE IT UP! THE PLACE IS BURNING DOWN!
MY LEGS...
UH...
AH...
GWE

KRK
RRR!
KAKI-
HITO.
I SHALL
HATE YOU.
I SHALL
HATE MY
FATHER.
PLEASE.
LET
ME
DIE.
LET
ME
DIE.
YOU
MUSTN'T
DIE, MY
LADY...
...NOT
WHILE I
STILL
DRAW
BREATH.

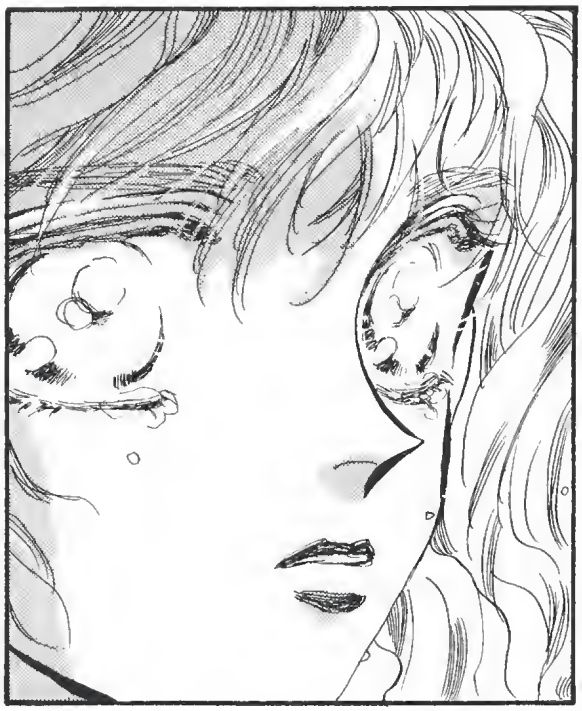
THIS IS A DREAM.
IT HAPPENED HERE LONG AGO.
IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.

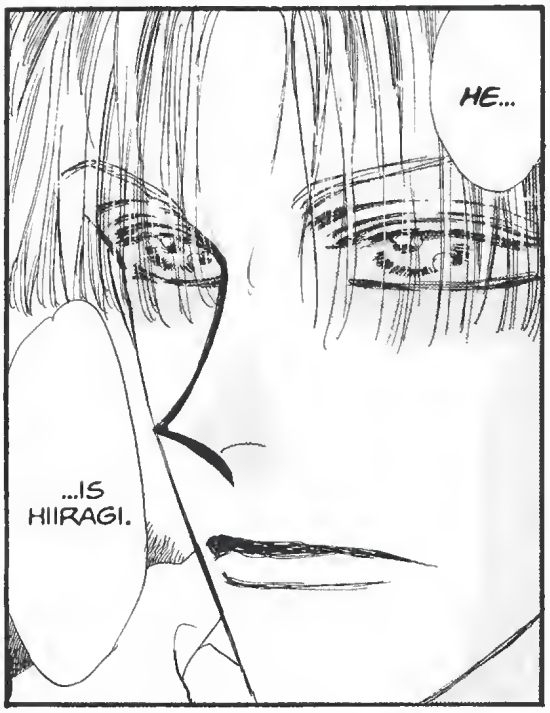

AND I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THAT.
DO I HATE HIM?
LOVE AND HATE ARE TWO SIDES...
...OF THE SAME COIN.
DO I WANT TO HATE HIM?
BUT I'VE FORGIVEN HIM LONG AGO...
THEY OCCUPY THE SAME PLACE IN THE HEART.
...IN MY HEART.

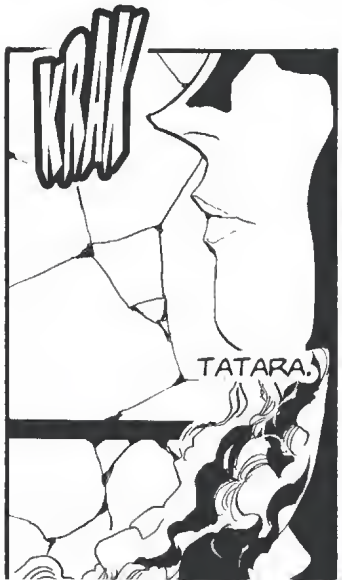

ARE YOU HURT?
UM..
I SAW...
...AN OLD MAN, AND HE...
TMF
I MISS HIM.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SHF
SHF
HUH, A REAL GHOST.
AN OLD MAN?
THERE'S NOBODY HERE.


WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...
...AF-TER THAT?
GINKO AND KAKI-HITO'S STORY...
HM.
GINKO RETURNED TO KYOTO AND SUFFERED...
...A LONG BOUT OF DEPRESSION.
THE KING FELT PITY FOR HER, AND BESTOWED UPON HER THE TITLE OF THE WHITE KING.
IT WAS UNPRECE-DENTED.
THAT'S WHY SHE'S OLDER THAN ME...
...BUT SHE'S LOWER IN THE ORDER OF SUCCESSION THAN THE BLUE KING.

THE OCHRE WAS DIS-BANDED.
KAKIHITO STAYED BY THE WHITE KING'S SIDE AND BECAME HER SHADOW.
KAKIHITO GOT BURNS ALL OVER HIS BACK.
HE RETIRED FROM THE FRONT.




HE...
...IS HIIRAGI.


KRAK
TATARA.

KK
SKRK
...FOR THIS MOMENT.

KRIK
I'VE BEEN WAITING...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOME-ONE...
...ANYONE...
...TO KILL MY FATHER... KING UKON.
FOR SOME-ONE...
...TO DESTROY THIS KINGDOM.
TATARA...
OR WILL IT BE SHURI?
WILL YOU BE THE ONE TO DO IT FOR ME?
WE MUST DECIDE, HIIRAGI...

IS SHE A DOG OR A WOLF?
IS SHE A TIGER OR A PIG?
IF SHE'S A WILD BEAST THAT CANNOT BE TAMED...
YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE, HIIRAGI.
...IF SHE CAN'T BE OF ANY USE TO US...
IT SEEMS...
...THIS ISLAND HAS IT IN FOR ME.
I SEE.
THAT'S VERY TRUE.
THEM FISH WON'T BITE...
...IF THERE'S BLOOD-LUST.
ODD.
YOU SEEM VERY SKILLED, AND YET...
...I FEEL NO BLOOD-LUST.

WE'RE JEST FRIENDS.
I'M NO MINION.
PCH
POP
I SEE.
I AM HIIRAGI.
...TATARA HAS FORMIDABLE MINIONS.
I SEE...
I'M TAMON.
WANT SOME SEA BREAM?
SEA BREAM IN AKASHI'S S'PPOSED T'BE TH' BEST.
...I HEAR THEY GIT ROUNDER AS THEY AGE.
I MADE SASHIMI. THE HEAD AN' BONES'LL GET STEWED.
HOLLY LEAVES ARE SHARP AN' POINTY, BUT...
I'M NOT READY FOR THAT YET.
ROUNDING OUT ISN'T AN OPTION.

...I HATED HER.
AND...
SHE WAS THE ONE.
THIS WHITE KING RAISED ME FROM A BABY.
ALWAYS. I COULD TELL.
YOU KNOW WHY? SHE'D ALWAYS COMPARE ME...
...WITH SHURI.
ISN'T SHE CLEVER HOW SHE DOES THAT?
THAT'S HOW SHE KEPT ME...
SHE SAID SHE LOVED ME...
...BUT SHE LOVED SHURI MORE.
"SHURI IS SO SWEET.
HE'S STRONG, HEALTHY, AND SMART."

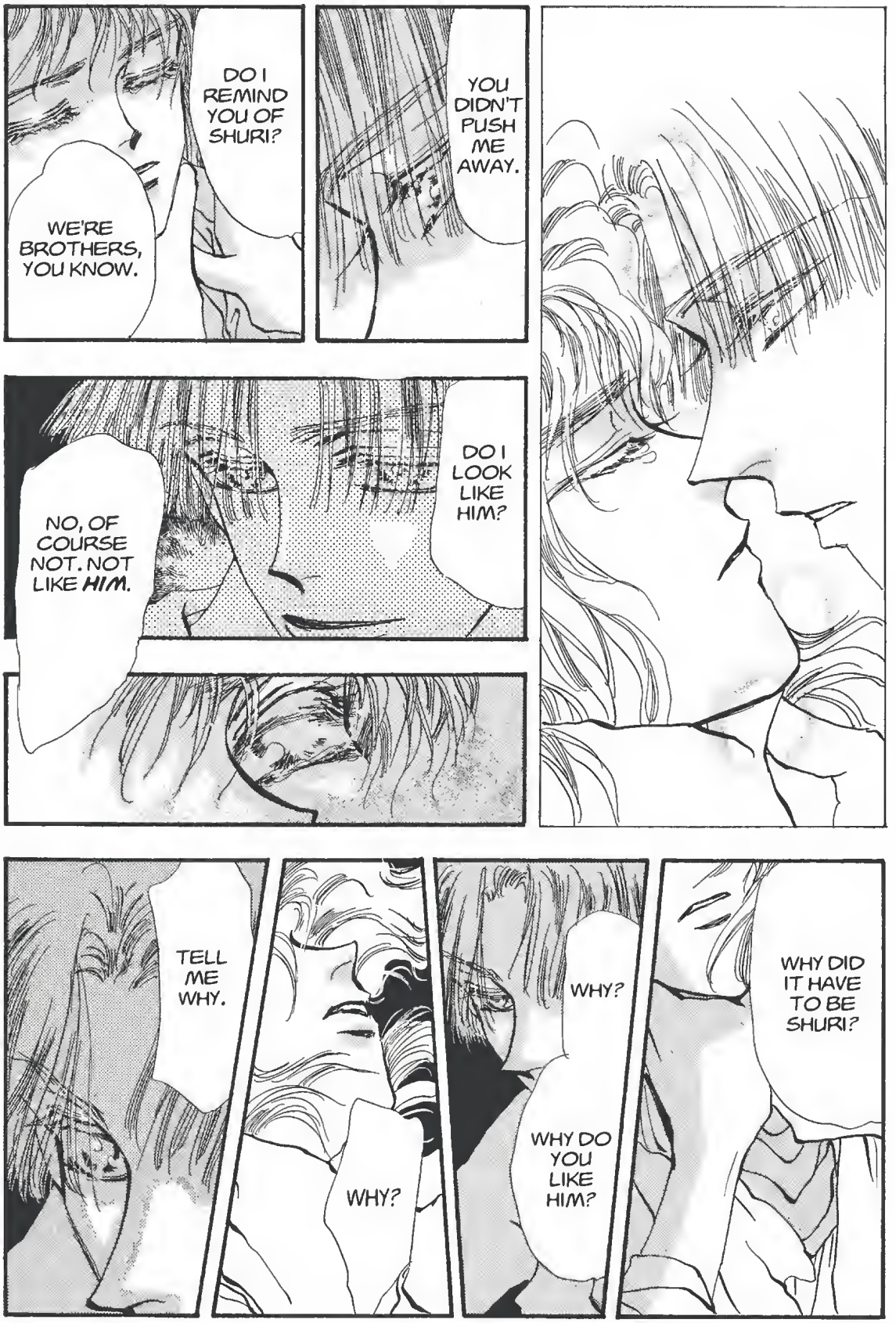
AFTER KING UKON IS DEPOSED...
...SHE DOESN'T WANT TO END UP DEAD, TOO.
SHE SENT ME TO SPY ON YOU...
...BECAUSE SHE WANTS YOU AS HER PAWN.
...WRAPPED AROUND HER LITTLE FINGER.
...HIIRAGI WILL COME AFTER YOU.
IF YOU REFUSE TO BE HER PAWN...
...BEFORE THAT WERE TO HAPPEN.
BUT I'D KILL YOU FIRST...

JOIN THE WHITE KING. WORK WITH HER.

OR ELSE... I'LL KILL YOU.

CHOOSE. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

I'LL KILL YOU.


DO I REMIND YOU OF SHURI?
WE'RE BROTHERS, YOU KNOW.
YOU DIDN'T PUSH ME AWAY.
DO I LOOK LIKE HIM?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. NOT LIKE HIM.
TELL ME WHY.
WHY?
WHY?
WHY DO YOU LIKE HIM?
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE SHURI?

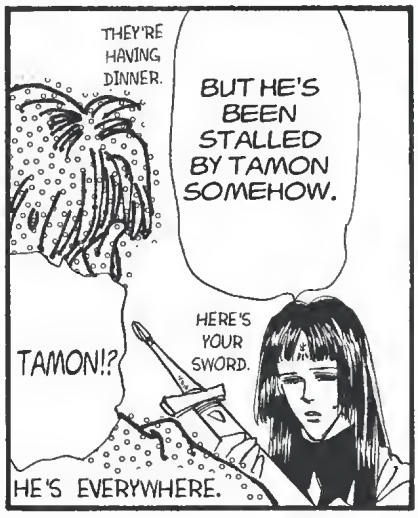
COME
WITH ME.

COME WITH ME.

THOOM
BOOM
WSH
WSH
SHIN-BASHI...
BOOM
THEY'RE WORK-ING WITH KAKU...
...TO CAPTURE THE ISLAND!
I SEE SHIKOKU SHIPS.
THEY'RE HERE!
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU!
FIP FUP
GOOD.
SO EVERY-ONE'S ALL RIGHT.
I COULDN'T FIND NAGI.
UH-HUH.
SHINBASHI, YOU WENT ALL THE WAY TO SEE TENMA!?

VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME: ③

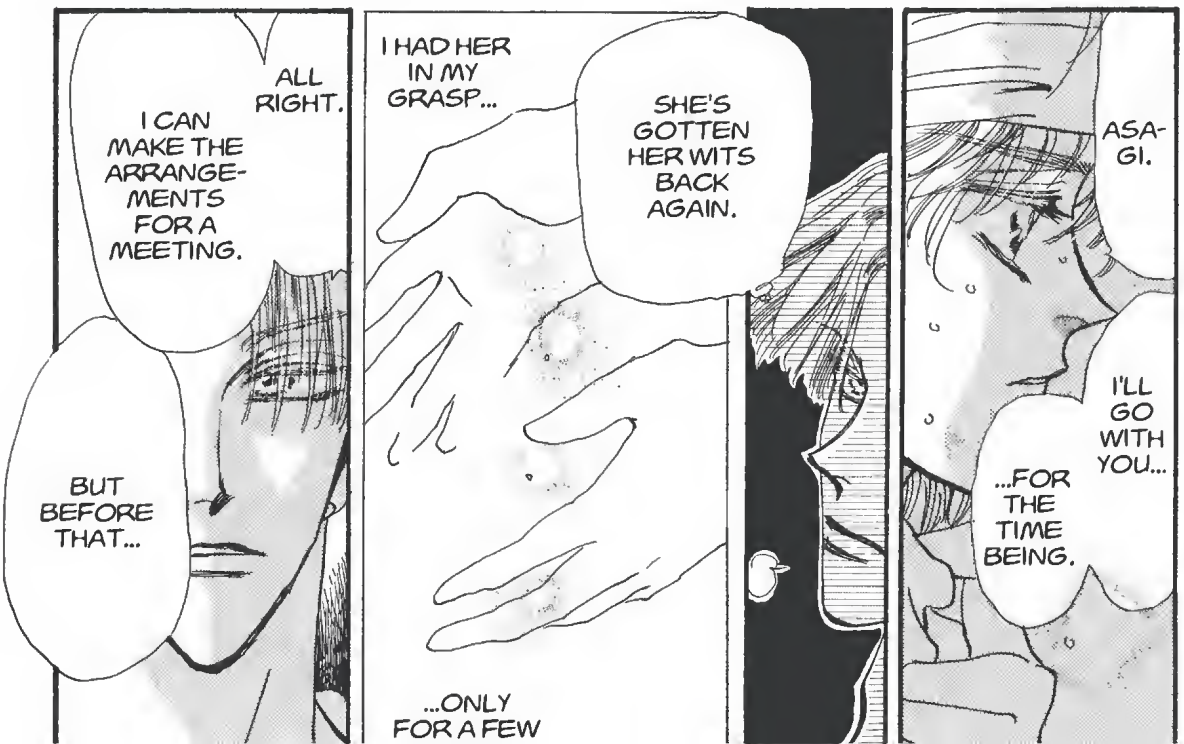
SHURI, MEANWHILE...



TAMU

SHF
ASA-
GI.
...I WOULD LIKE TO MEET HER.
I'M NOT AGREEING TO JOIN THE WHITE KING, BUT...

...LIKE MY TALKS WITH LADY PURPLE.
I CAN EXPLORE WAYS TO CAPTURE KYOTO...


ALL RIGHT.
I CAN MAKE THE ARRANGE-MENTS FOR A MEETING.
BUT BEFORE THAT...
I HAD HER IN MY GRASP...
SHE'S GOTTEN HER WITS BACK AGAIN.
...ONLY FOR A FEW
ASA-
GI.
I'LL GO WITH YOU...
...FOR THE TIME BEING.

YOU KNOW WHAT?
I HATE HIM, TOO... A LOT.
LORD ASAGI!?
ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?
HELP ME, MURA-TAKE.
...WE'D HAVE TO GET RID OF HIIRAGI.
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
LORD ASAGI?

I GOT HURT, YOU SEE.
COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT, DOCTOR?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

DR. HIIRAGI!
ﾌｯ

LOTS OF MEM-ORIES HERE, EH?

I'VE TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL.
I KNOW.

...
...
POMM

THIS BALL...!
GOT HIM!
HA...!
SEE THAT!?
...FOR MOCKING ME ALL THESE YEARS FOR HAVING ONLY SKILL!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET...

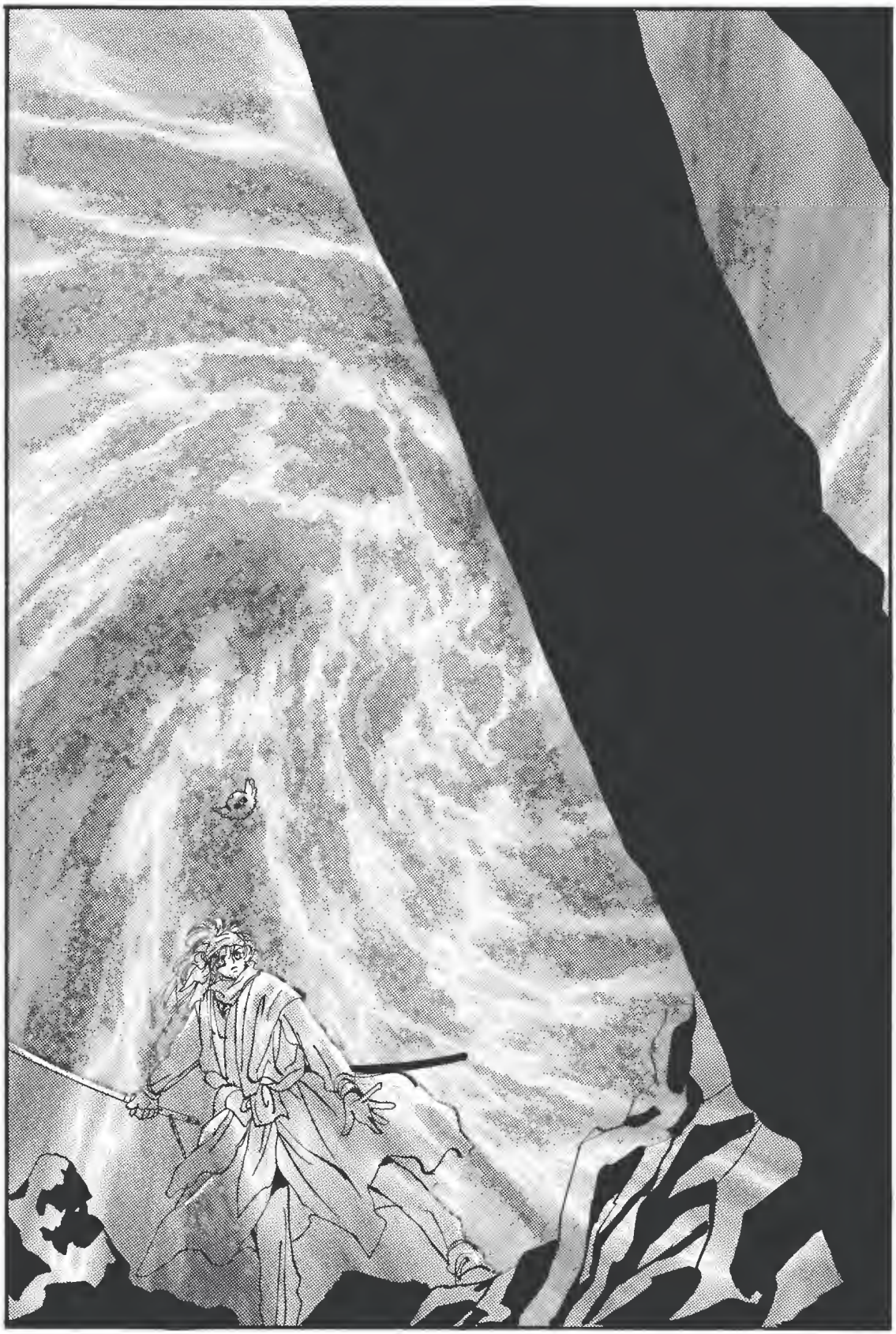
YES... ONLY SKILL.
...BY BEING OUT IN THE WORLD?
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
YOU ARE STILL A CHILD, EASILY TRAUMA-TIZED...
...TIMID AND AS FRAGILE AS GLASS.

SHF
AND YOU, TATARA.
TAMON-TEN, THE CELESTIAL GUARDIAN, PROTECTS THE CONSTELLATION...
...OF THE TIGER.
YOU WOULD NEVER SETTLE FOR BEING A DOG.

I KNEW THAT IF I TURNED MY BACK...
...HE WOULD KILL ME IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

I COULD NOT RUN. MY ONLY CHOICE WAS TO DRAW MY SWORD.

Violet Tale 6: Kiss

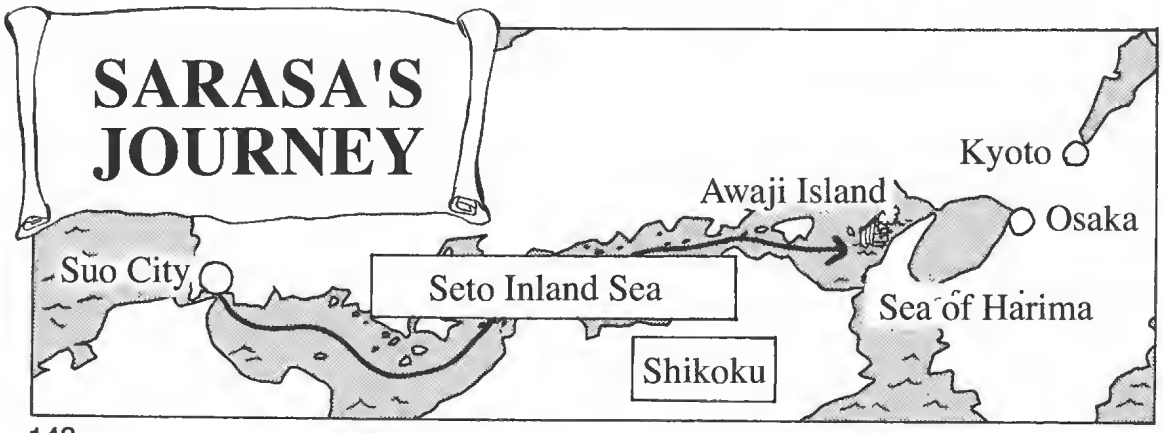


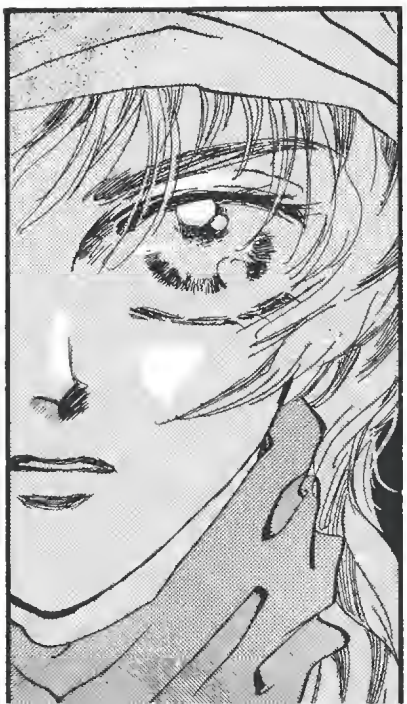
TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

Many people thought the White King was a transvestite.

I'm sorry my art is confusing. Grr.

TAKU



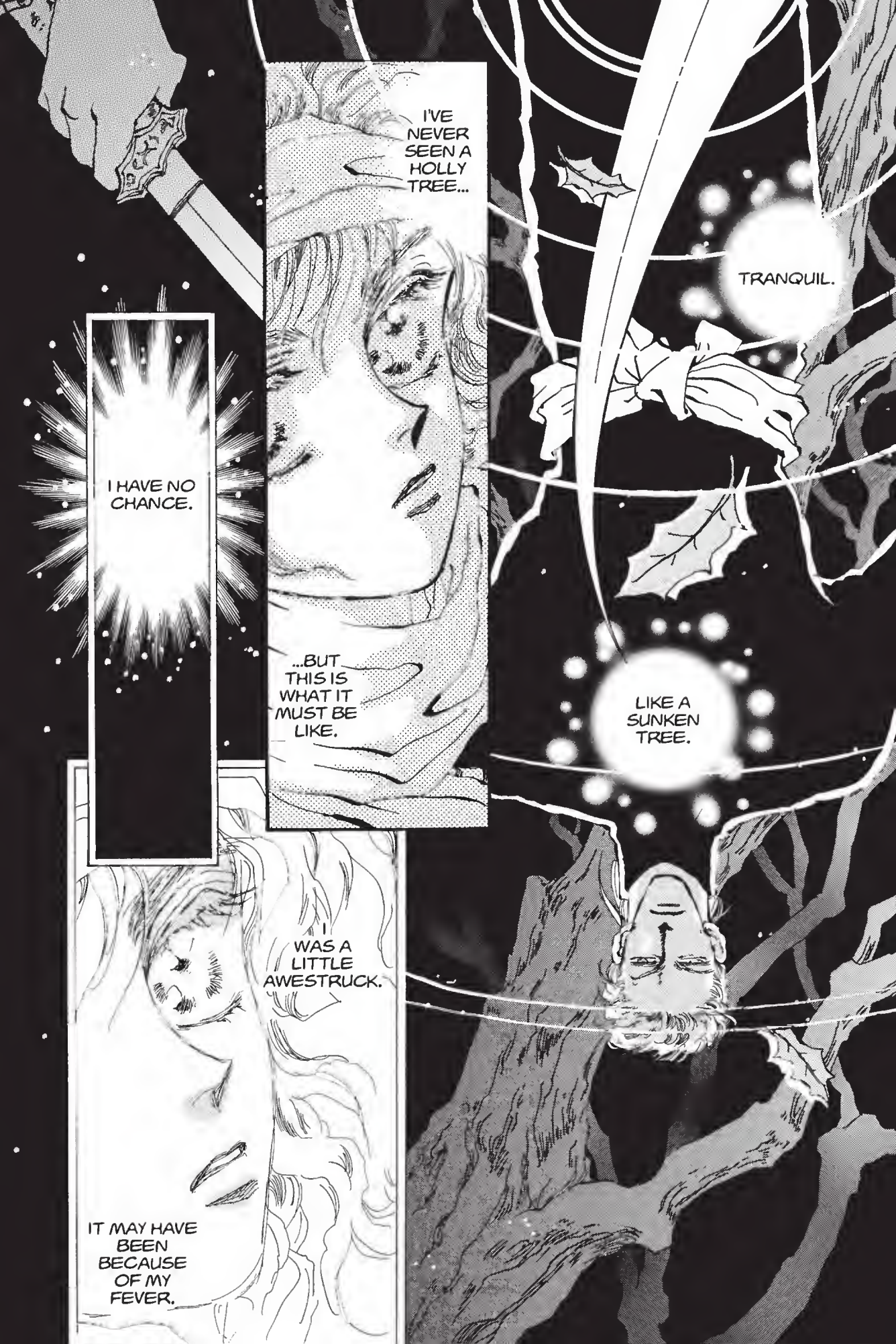


IT WAS DEATHLY QUIET.

I'VE MET MANY A SKILLED SWORDSMAN...

...AND LOOKED DEATH IN THE EYE.

BUT HIIRAGI WAS DIFFERENT FROM THEM ALL.


I'VE NEVER SEEN A HOLLY TREE...
...BUT THIS IS WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE.
I HAVE NO CHANCE.
I WAS A LITTLE AWESTRUCK.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF MY FEVER.
TRANQUIL.
LIKE A SUNKEN TREE.

HIIRAGI ALSO FELT...
...THAT SHE LACKED SKILL.
HER MIND AND BODY WERE SHAKY AT BEST.
AND YET...
SHE'S MANAGED TO SURVIVE...
...THESE TUMULTUOUS TIMES.

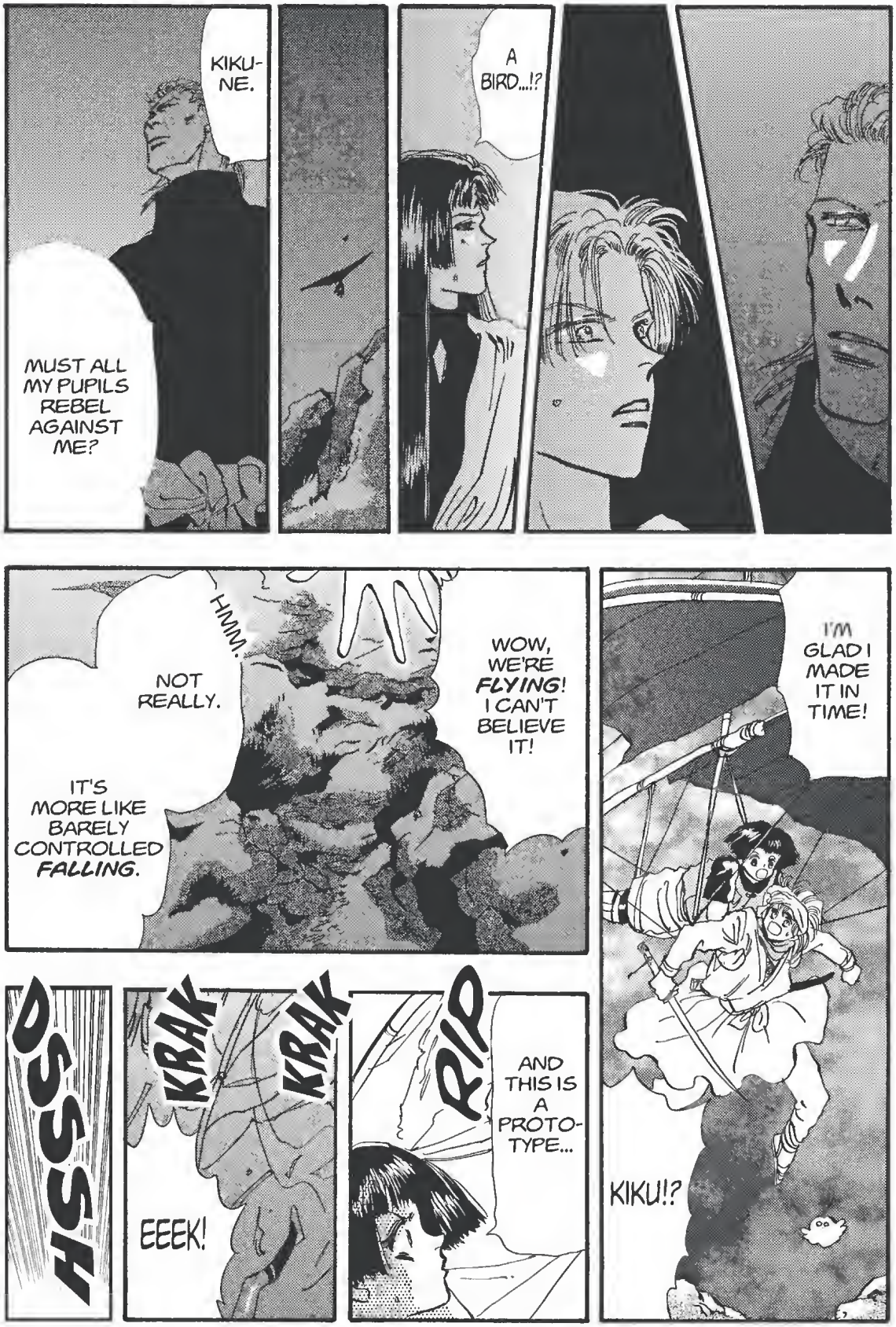
THAT IS A TESTAMENT TO HER PROWESS.

YOU ALSO SANK...
...OUR PRECIOUS SHIP.
WHAT YOU SAID HURT ASAGI.
HII...
OR RATHER, KAKI-HITO.
SNF
HOW-EVER...
IT WAS TOO LATE...
TOO LATE.

I SYMPA-THIZE WITH YOU...
...BUT I CAN'T LET YOU KILL ME.
I CAN'T WIN.
BUT THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN.
I HAVE TO GO FOR-WARD.
GO!
FIGHT!
SH
SH

I WON'T LET YOU DO IT.
TATARA, THAT WAS INSANITY!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
ASAGI!
TMF
I CAN KILL HER. THAT'S FINE, BUT...
YOU DON'T GET TO KILL HER!
KA
THEN YOU SHALL DIE WITH HER.
THNG

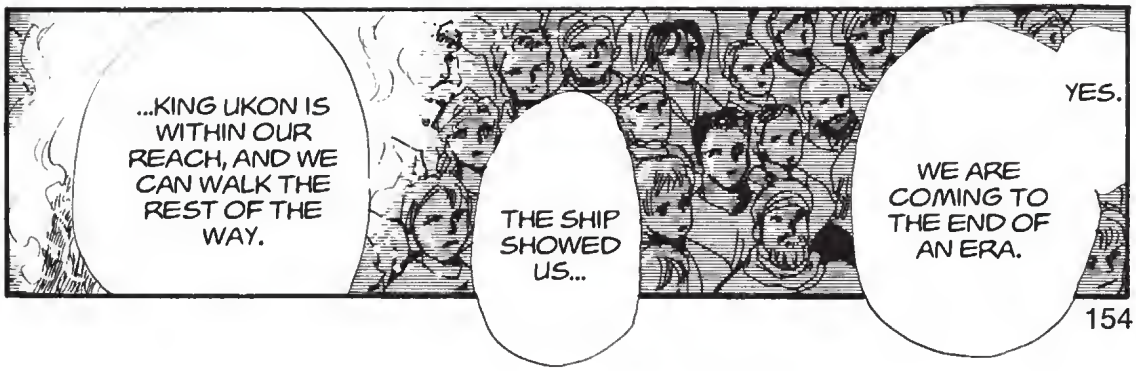
MURA-
TAKE!
YOU,
TOO?
LORD
ASAGI,
RUN!
WHOOSH!


KIKU-NE.
MUST ALL MY PUPILS REBEL AGAINST ME?
A BIRD...!?
HMM.
NOT REALLY.
IT'S MORE LIKE BARELY CONTROLLED FALLING.
WOW, WE'RE FLYING! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I'M GLAD I MADE IT IN TIME!
KIKU!?
HSSS
KRAK
KRAK
EEEK!
RIP
AND THIS IS A PROTO-TYPE...

TATA-RA, IS THAT YOU!?
KAKU!
I'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN LATER.
THE YOUNG PREFER MURKY WATERS.
A PER-SON'S WORTH...
SHF
SHF
WHAT VALUE DO YOU HAVE?
...IS WHAT HE MAKES OF HIMSELF.
DO I MEAN SO LITTLE TO YOU?
AM I NOT WORTHY ENOUGH?
YOU WON'T CARE IF I'M COLLA-TERAL DAMAGE?
HIIRA-GI...
YOU...
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!

HIIRAGI LEFT... FOR NOW.
IT'S EMBARRASSING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF SHIKOKU...
...AWAJI ISLAND FELL INTO OUR CONTROL.

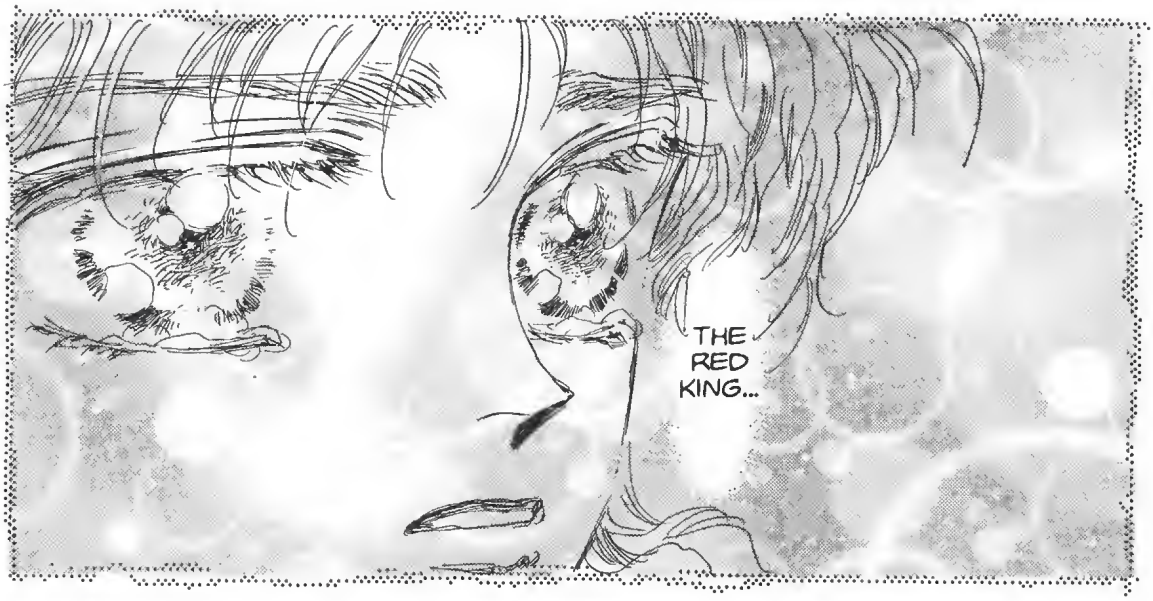
I KNOW THE LOSS OF THE SHIP HAS BEEN HARD ON EVERYONE.
LET'S CHOOSE TO THINK INSTEAD THAT SHE FULFILLED HER DUTY HONORABLY.


YES.
WE ARE COMING TO THE END OF AN ERA.
THE SHIP SHOWED US...
...KING UKON IS WITHIN OUR REACH, AND WE CAN WALK THE REST OF THE WAY.

WE'LL CROSS THE DESERTS!
ALL OF US AS ONE!
LET US RIDE TO KYOTO!!
RAAH WOO RAAH
KIKU, THANKS SO MUCH FOR COMING.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
MY FEVER'S DOWN.
YEAH, I'M FINE.
THAT WAS AN AWESOME SPEECH!
FEELING BETTER, SARASA?

HE'S WORKING HARD.
HE GETS NEWS OUT FAST!
BATTLE IN THE INLAND SEA
ROYAL NAVY SUNK!
COUNCILOR NARROW'S ESCAPES
TATARA LOSES SHIP BUT EMERGES VICTORIOUS
I HEAR HE'S CHASING ANOTHER BIG SCOOP RIGHT NOW.
HOW DID YOU KNOW!?
SHF.
THROUGH TARO'S NEWS-PAPER.
I HEARD TATARA'S SHIP SANK...
...SO I GOT WORRIED.
INFORMATION...
...IS AN AMAZING THING.
YEAH?
WHO'S IN COMMAND?
ICHI-MATSU?
GUESS WHAT?
HAHA
I'M FIGHTING KING UKON'S ARMY...
...AT THE BORDER WITH THE BLACK VOLUN-TEER ARMY.
I GOT MY PEACE OF MIND. I BETTER GET BACK.
HUH?
SO SOON!?

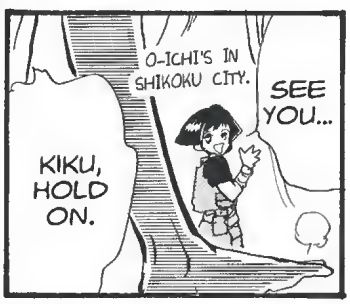
IT'S THE RED KING.
NO.
...TO BEGIN WITH.
IT WAS HIS STRATEGY TO "RETIRE" THE BLACK KING...
THEY TRUST HIM AND FIGHT TO-GETHER.
...AND EATS THE SAME FOOD.
HE WEARS THE SAME CLOTHES AS EVERYONE ELSE...
NOBODY KNOWS HE'S REALLY THE RED KING.


THE RED KING...

AND I HAVE...
...SOMETHING TO GIVE TO THE RED KING...

I'LL GO WITH YOU.
I WANT TO LEND MY SUPPORT TO THE BLACK SOLDIERS.

I GET PISSED.
HE ORDERS ME AROUND.
BUT HE'S STILL ARROGANT.
HMPH


O-ICHI'S IN SHIKOKU CITY.
SEE YOU...
KIKU, HOLD ON.

KAKU...

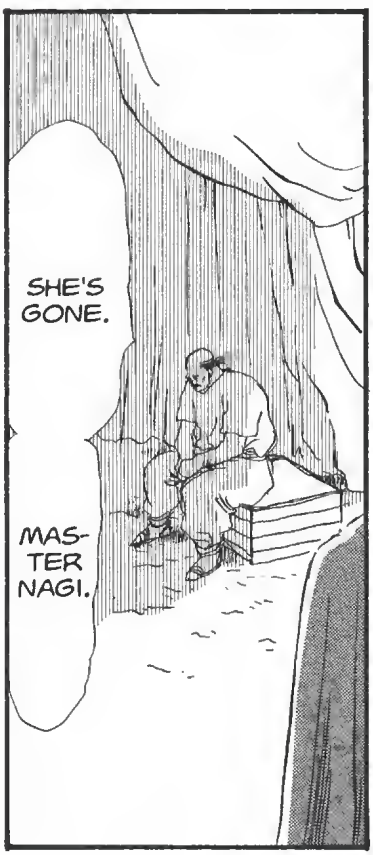
FWSH
OH NO, YOU DON'T!

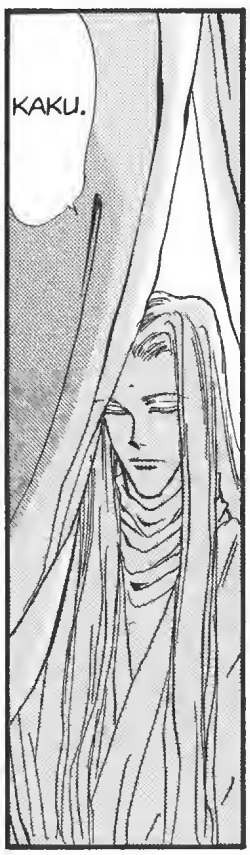
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WE NEED TO TALK TO THE BLACK SOLDIERS, YES.
BUT SEEING THE RED KING IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
YOU AND YOUR MOTHER...
...MAY HAVE FORGIVEN THE RED KING.
BUT NOT I.
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!
EVER!
NOR WILL ANY OF THE PEOPLE OF BYAKKO VILLAGE!

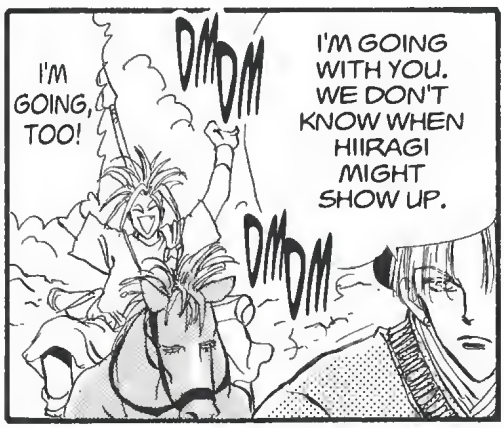
IF YOU WERE TO GO TO HIS DEFENSE...
...OUR HATRED WILL TURN UPON YOU, TOO.
HIS APOLOGIES WILL GO UNHEARD...
...AS WE TEAR HIM LIMB FROM LIMB.
NOTHING HE COULD DO WILL CHANGE THAT.
EVEN IF HE WERE TO BEG ON HIS KNEES.
TATARA!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
THAT'S NOT A POSSIBILITY I WANT TO FACE!
WE WOULD BE FORCED TO SMITE YOU DOWN AT THE HOUR OF OUR REVENGE!

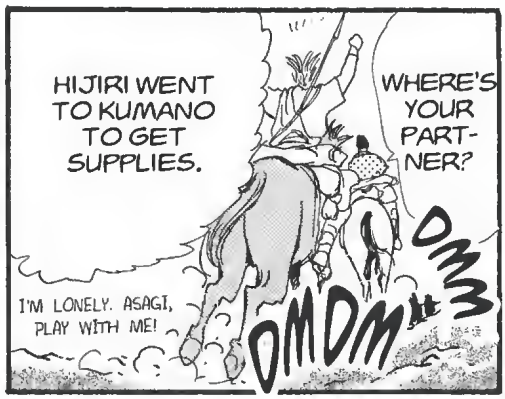
KAKU...
I WON'T SEE HIM.
DON'T WORRY.
KAKU...
THREE DAYS.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT ...?
I JUST WANT TO GIVE THEM SOME HELP...
BUT I OWE THE PEOPLE...
...OF THE BLACK LANDS. THEY TOOK CARE OF ME.

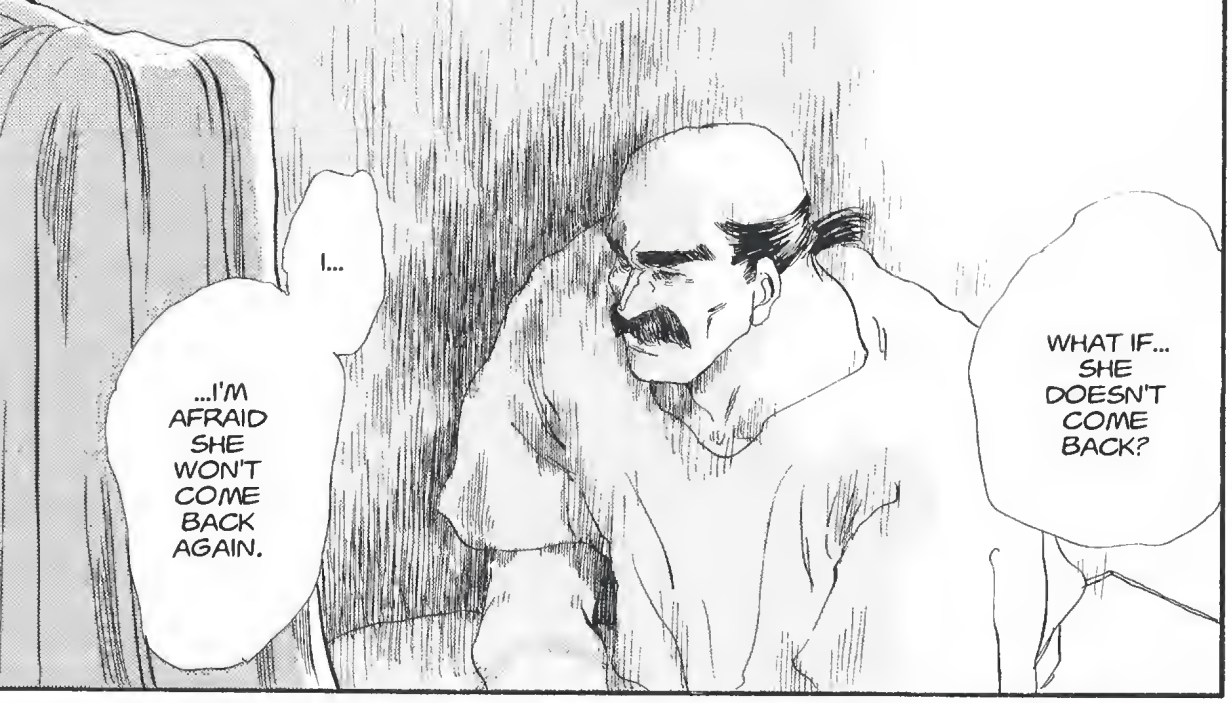
PLEASE BE BACK IN THREE DAYS.
WE CAN'T LEAVE RIGHT AWAY ANYWAY.
DMDM
WE NEED TO CALL PEOPLE FROM SUO...
DM DM
...AND BUILD A FORT AND SHELTERS, AND REGROUP OUR TROOPS.
DM DM
DMDM

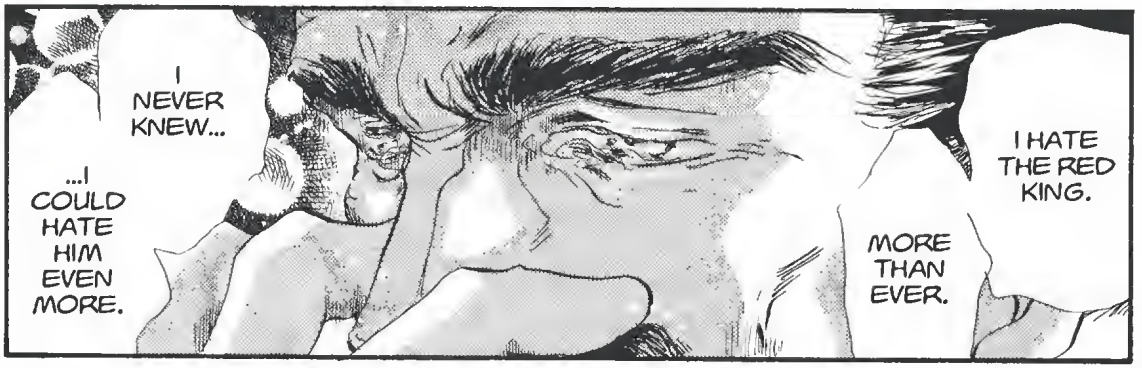

SHE'S GONE.
MAS-TER NAGI.

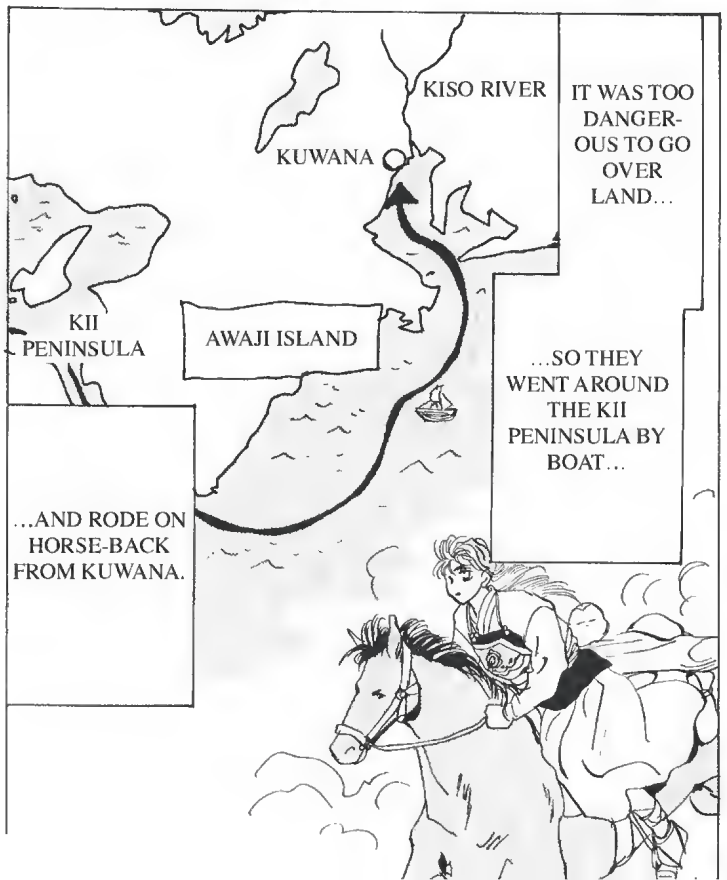

KAKU.

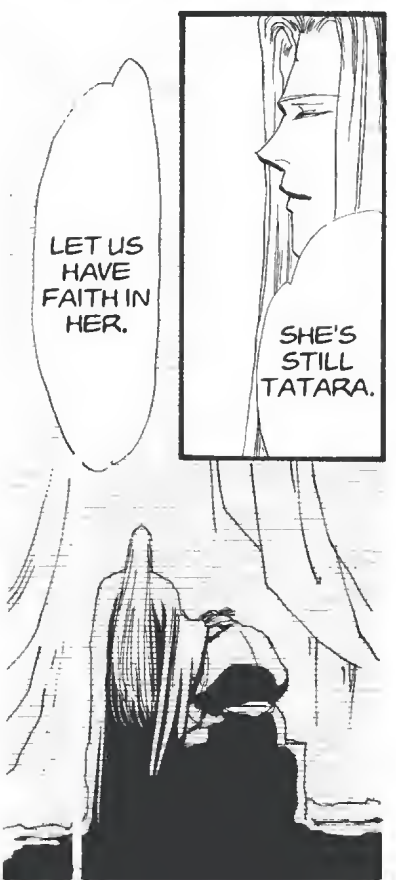

I'M GOING, TOO!
DMDM
I'M GOING WITH YOU. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HIIRAGI MIGHT SHOW UP.
DMDM

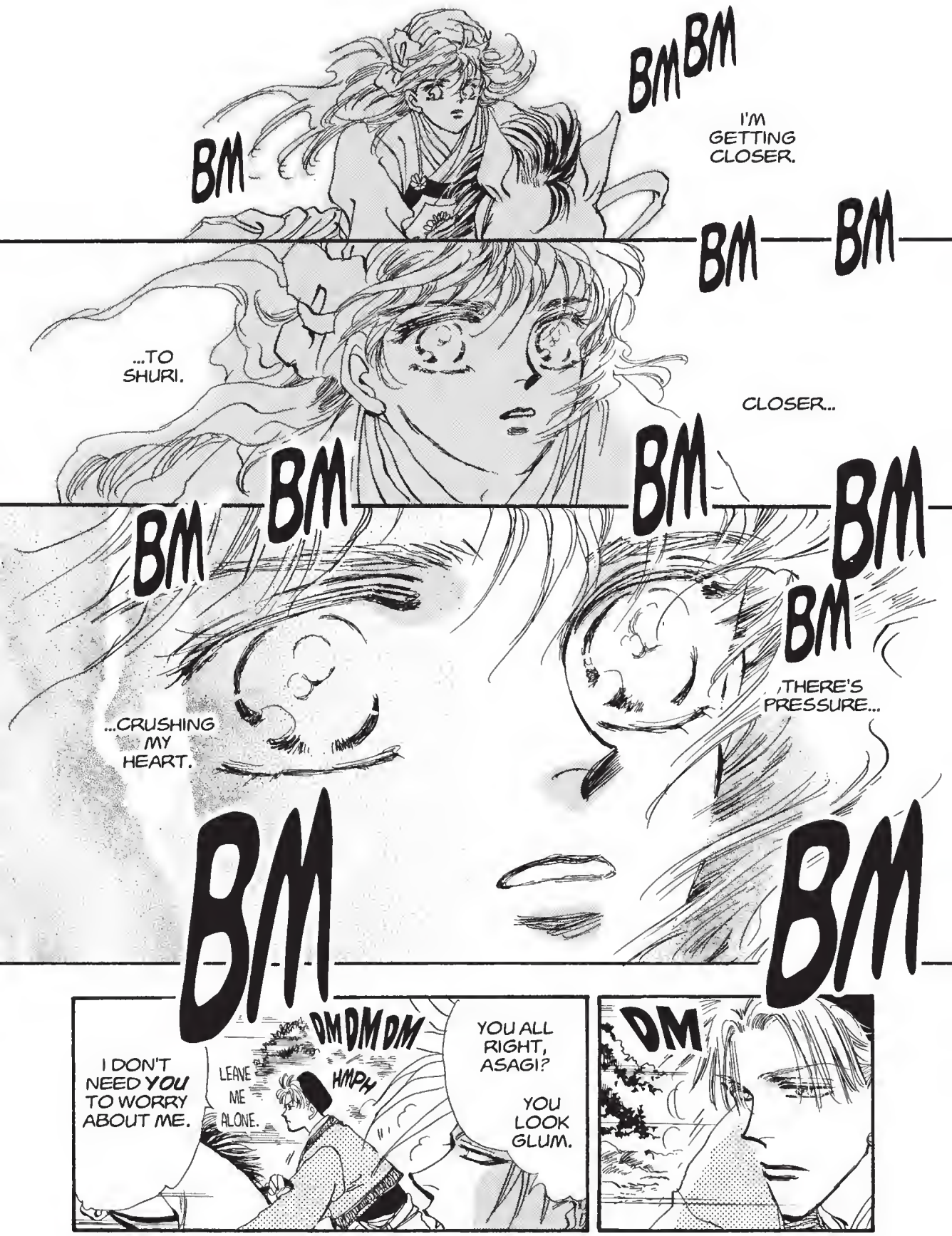

HIJIRI WENT TO KUMANO TO GET SUPPLIES.
WHERE'S YOUR PART-NER?
I'M LONELY. ASAGI, PLAY WITH ME!
DMDM
DM3


I...
...I'M AFRAID SHE WON'T COME BACK AGAIN.
WHAT IF... SHE DOESN'T COME BACK?


I NEVER KNEW...
...I COULD HATE HIM EVEN MORE.
I HATE THE RED KING.
MORE THAN EVER.


KISO RIVER
KUWANA
KII PENINSULA
AWAJI ISLAND
IT WAS TOO DANGER-OUS TO GO OVER LAND...
...SO THEY WENT AROUND THE KII PENINSULA BY BOAT...
...AND RODE ON HORSE-BACK FROM KUWANA.

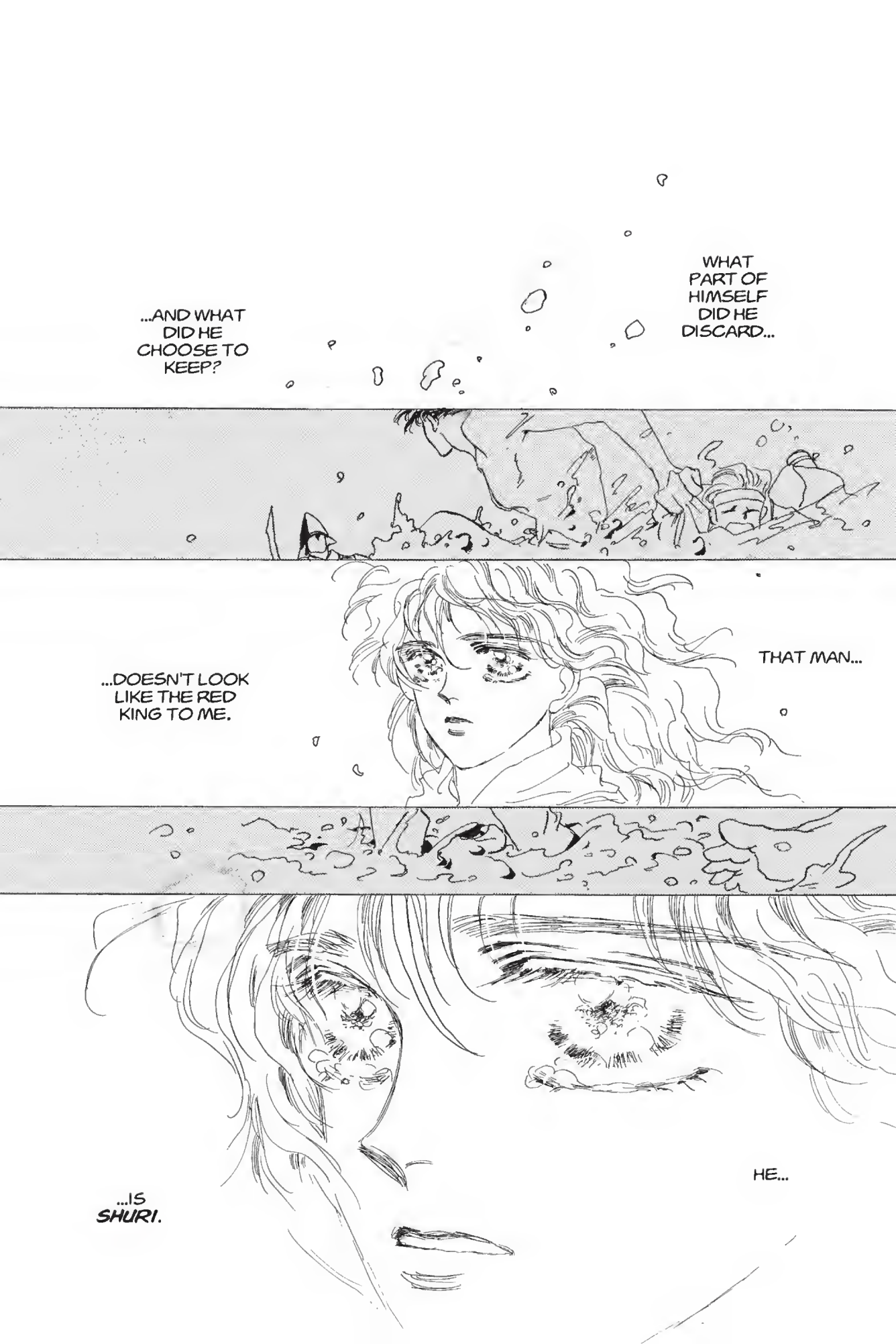

LET US HAVE FAITH IN HER.
SHE'S STILL TATARA.


BM
BM BM
I'M GETTING CLOSER.
BM BM
...TO SHURI.
CLOSER...
BM BM BM BM BM
...CRUSHING MY HEART.
THERE'S PRESSURE...
BM BM
I DON'T NEED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
DM DM DM
HMPH
YOU ALL RIGHT, ASAGI?
YOU LOOK GLUM.
DM

SAY WHAT!?
DM
...YOU WANT ATTEN-TION.
AM I WRONG?
BUT I THOUGHT WHENEVER YOU'RE FEELIN' GLUM...
DM DM
MURATAKE CAME ALONG
PLEASE, STOP IT YOU TWO!
HA HA
LOOK, THERE THEY ARE!
KLOP
BUT I'VE NEVER LIVED IN THE STONE AGE...
DM...
AND THIS IS WHY THEY WALK ALL OVER YOU.
MURATAKE, NOW I KNOW WHY YOU'VE TAKEN TO THEM.
IT MUST BE FUN TO GO BACK TO THE STONE AGE.

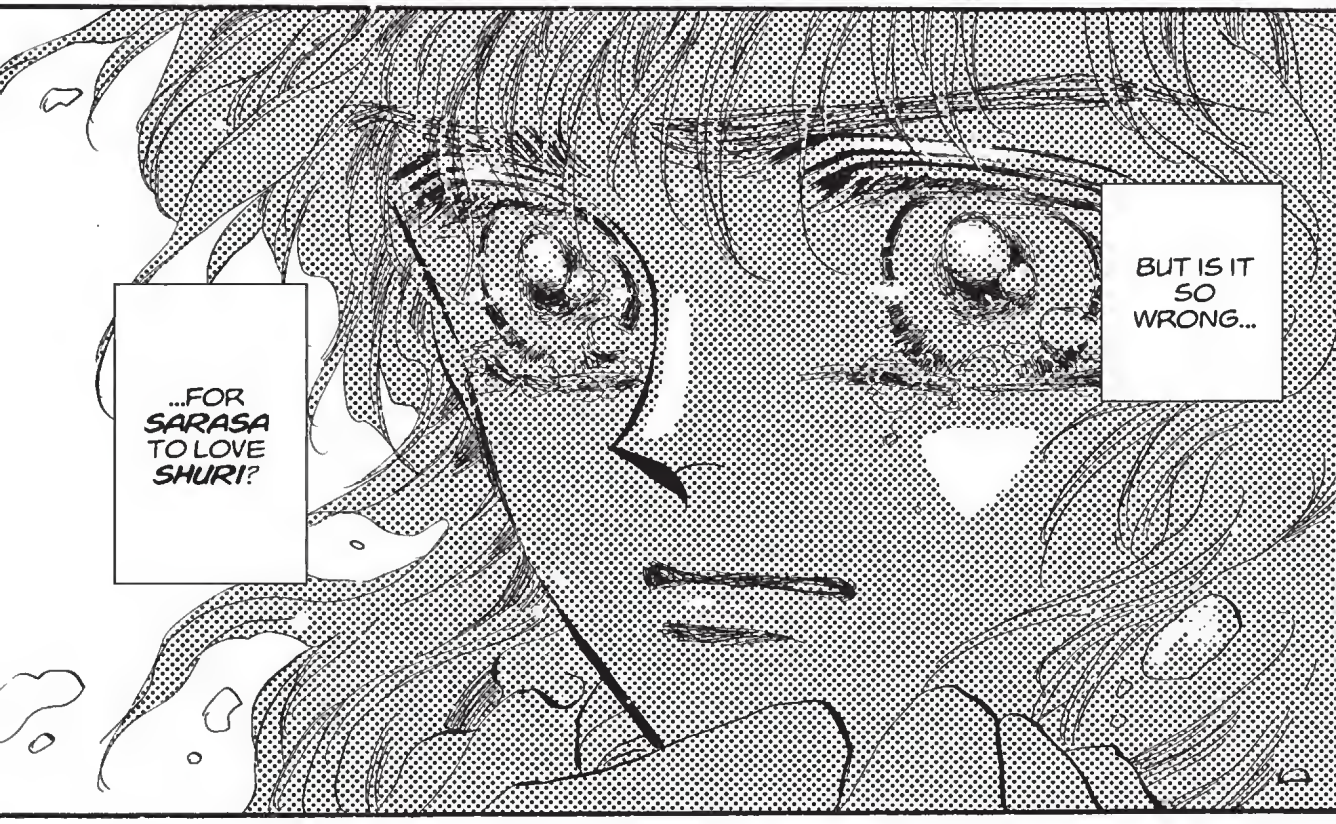
SEKIGAHARA
RAAH...
BWOO
RAAAH
OH NO!
THEY'RE FIGHTING IN THAT SWAMP!
IT WOULD'VE GIVEN THEM AN ADVANTAGE!
BUT IT ALSO WOULD'VE PUT HOUSES AND CROP FIELDS IN THE LINE OF FIRE.
THE RED KING DIDN'T WANT THEM TO BE CASUALTIES ...
WHAT!?
SO THEY DIDN'T TAKE THE OTHER PATH.

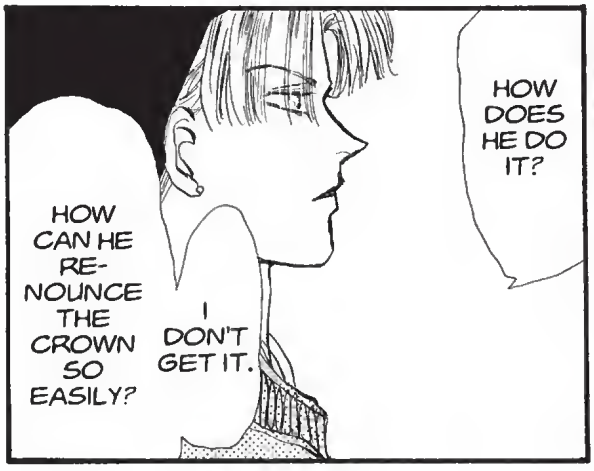
COVERED IN MUD!
GOSH, WHAT A QUAG-MIRE!
OH NO!
HOW CAN THEY EVEN TELL FRIEND FROM FOE?
KANG
RAAH
SHURI...
BLUP BLUP
BLOSH
BUT SHURI DEFENDED OKINAWA...
...AND LOVED SUO CITY.
I SAW IT.
THE RED KING...
THE SAME MAN WHO ONCE BURNED DOWN MY VILLAGE.
IDI-OTS...
...ALWAYS STAND IN THE FRONT.
WHERE IS HE?

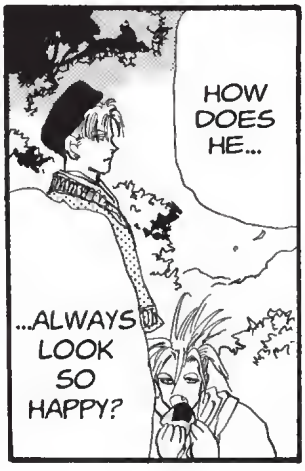

...AND WHAT DID HE CHOOSE TO KEEP?
WHAT PART OF HIMSELF DID HE DISCARD...
...DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE RED KING TO ME.
THAT MAN...
...IS SHURI.
HE...

...THAT I LOVED SO MUCH!
THE ETERNAL FLAME...
OH, KAKU...
KAKU.
WE WILL NEVER FORGIVE THE RED KING!

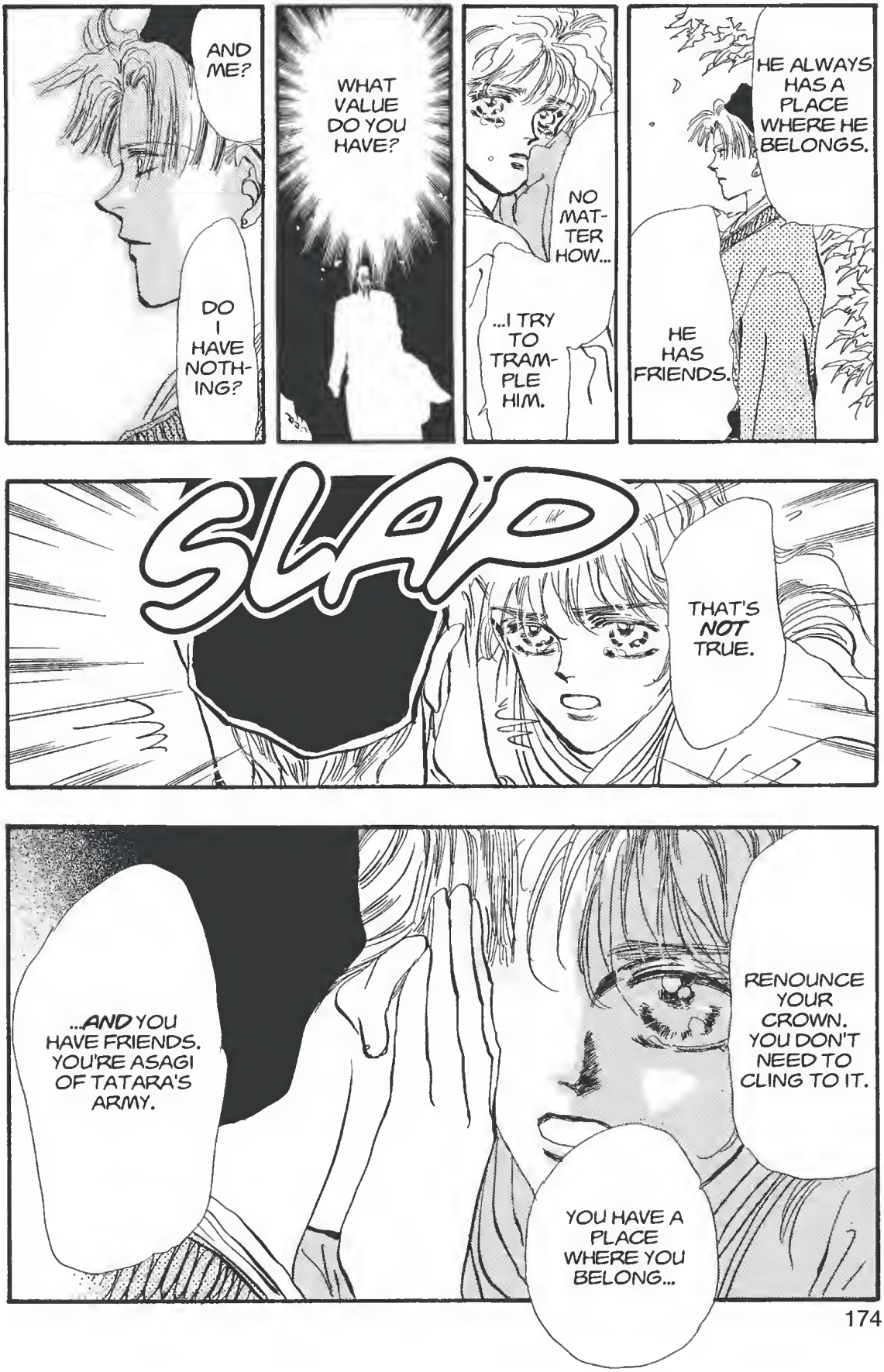
I KNOW.
TATARA WILL NEVER FORGIVE...
...THE RED KING.

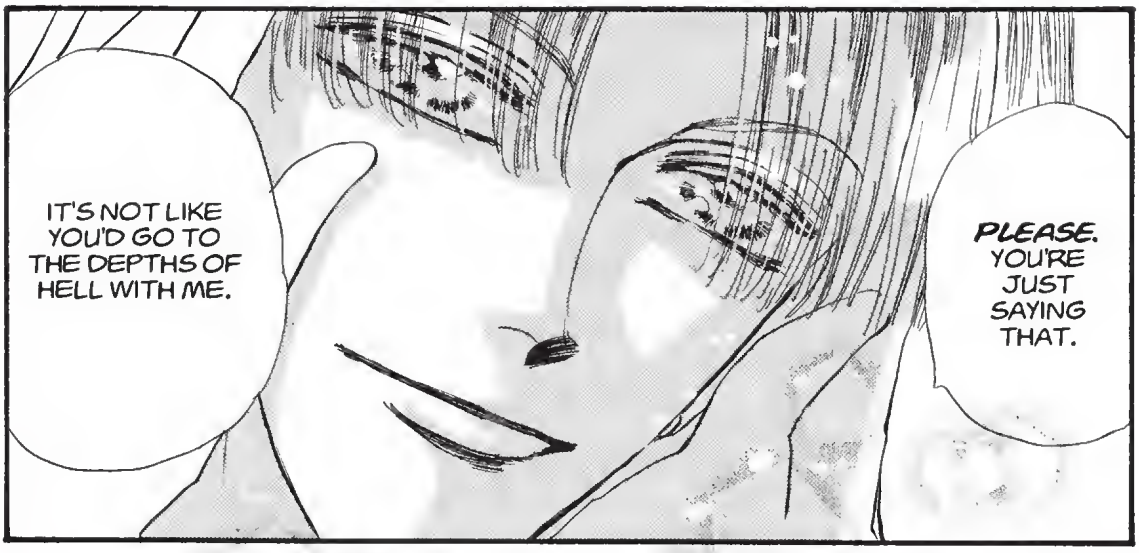

BUT IS IT SO WRONG...
...FOR SARASA TO LOVE SHURI?

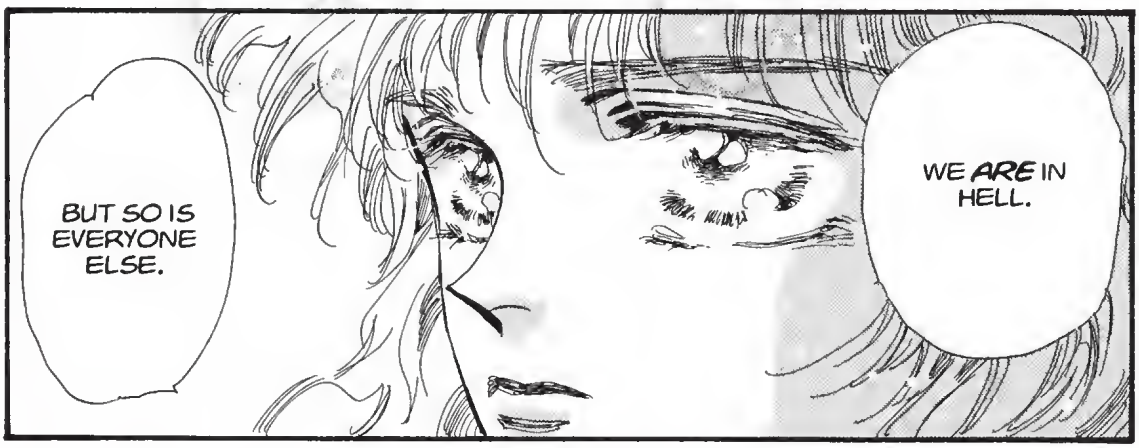

HOW DOES HE DO IT?
I DON'T GET IT.
HOW CAN HE RE-NOUNCE THE CROWN SO EASILY?


HOW DOES HE...
...ALWAYS LOOK SO HAPPY?

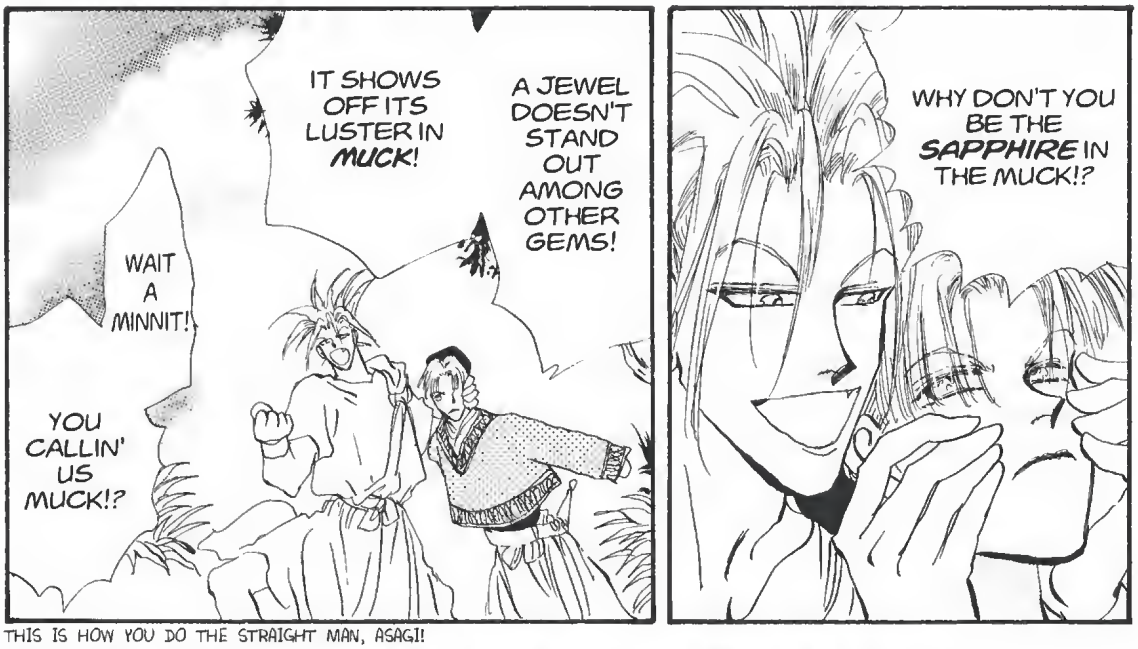
HE'S A RUBY IN THE MUD.


HE ALWAYS HAS A PLACE WHERE HE BELONGS.
HE HAS FRIENDS.
NO MATTER HOW...
...I TRY TO TRAMPLE HIM.
WHAT VALUE DO YOU HAVE?
AND ME?
DO I HAVE NOTHING?
SLAP
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
RENOUNCE YOUR CROWN. YOU DON'T NEED TO CLING TO IT.
YOU HAVE A PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG...
...AND YOU HAVE FRIENDS. YOU'RE ASAGI OF TATARA'S ARMY.

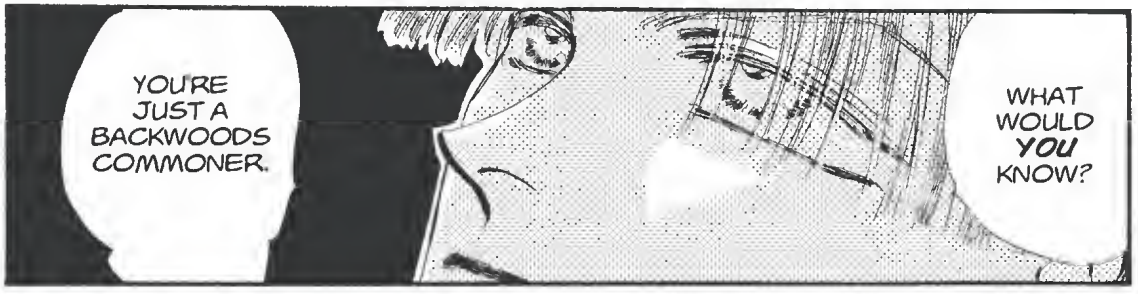

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D GO TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL WITH ME.
PLEASE. YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT.

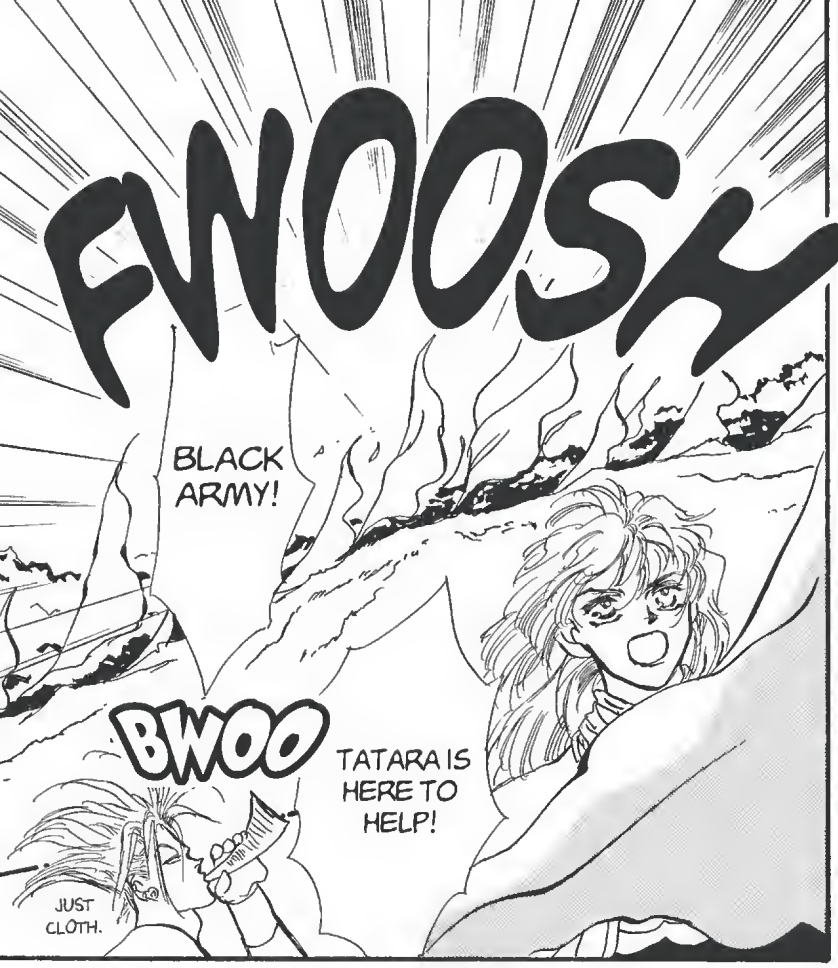

BUT SO IS EVERYONE ELSE.
WE ARE IN HELL.

SLAP
SHE'S RIGHT, Y'KNOW!
YOU'RE ONE OF US.
IT WON'T BE HELL...
...IF OUR FRIENDS ARE WITH US.



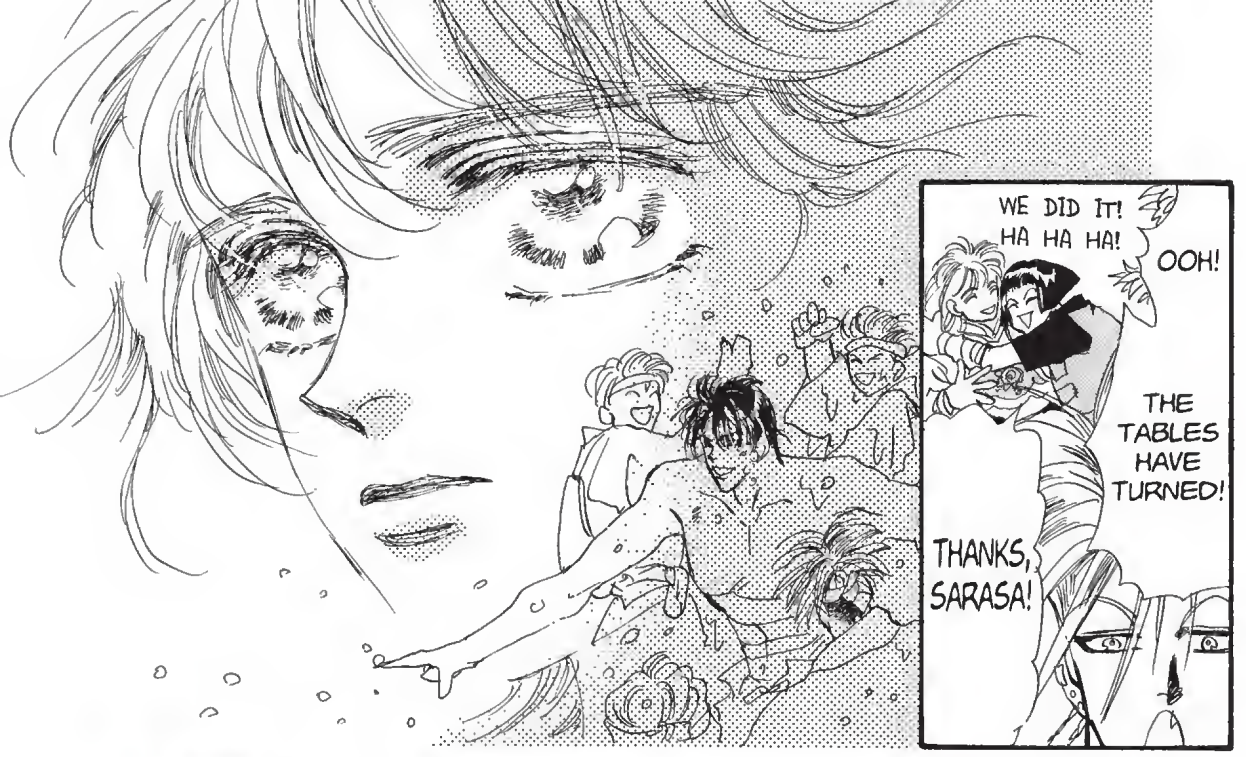
THIS IS HOW YOU DO THE STRAIGHT MAN, ASAGI!

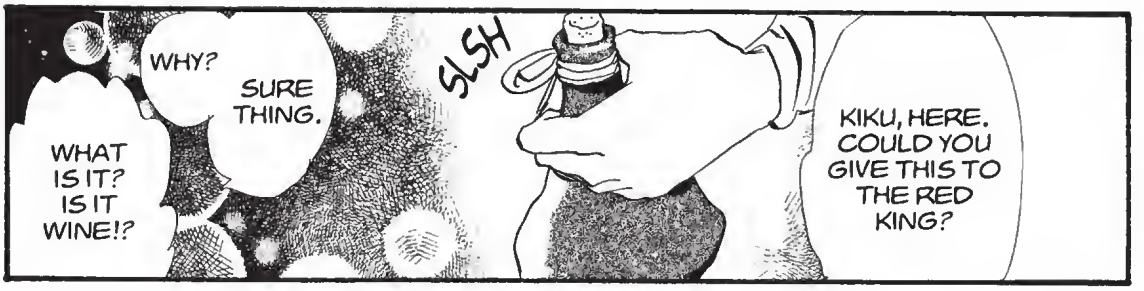


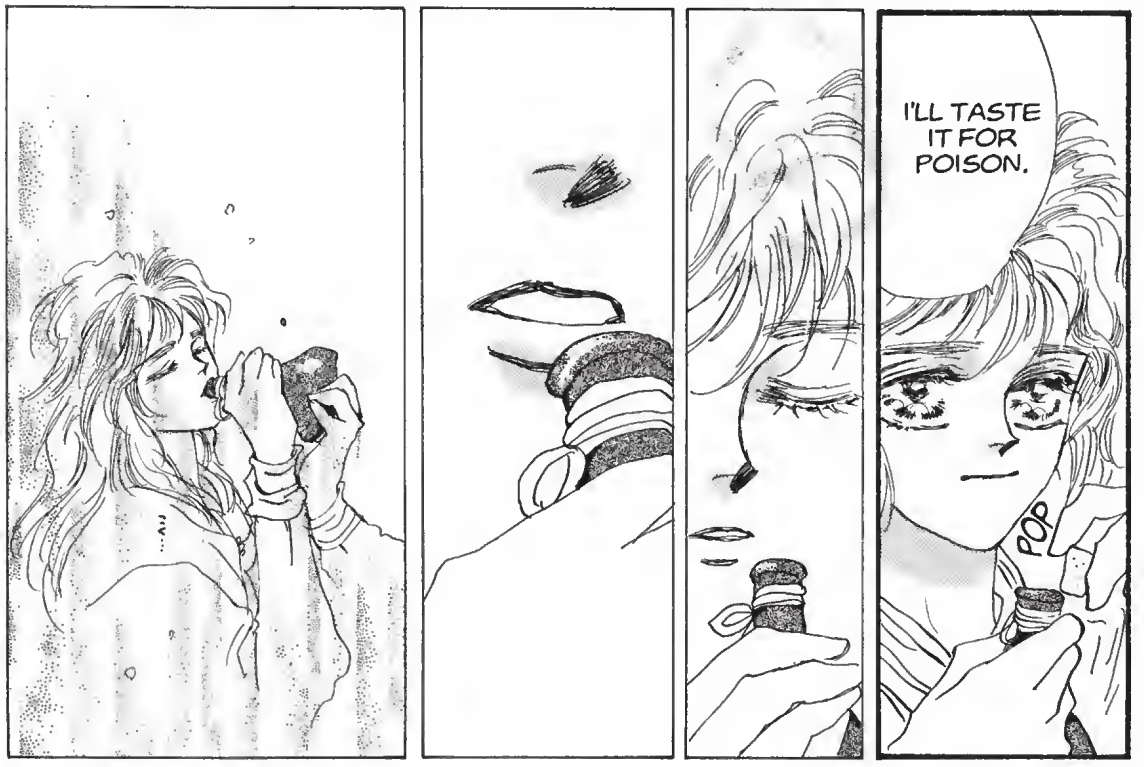

FWOOSH
BLACK ARMY!
BWOO
TATARA IS HERE TO HELP!
JUST CLOTH.

DID THEY SAY "TATA-RA"!?
WHOA
BWOO
KANG KANG
GACK!
TATARA!?
RAAH YEAH
NOW!
GET THEM!
SPLSH SPLSH
HEY STOP!
WAAH
YEEK!
RUN!
WE'RE GOING TO GET CUT OFF!
WAAH
SPLSH SPLSH

EVEN AS I CURSED MY ROYAL BLOOD.


WE DID IT! HA HA HA!
OOH!
THE TABLES HAVE TURNED!
THANKS, SARASA!


WHY?
SURE THING.
WHAT IS IT? IS IT WINE!?
SLSH
KIKU, HERE. COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO THE RED KING?

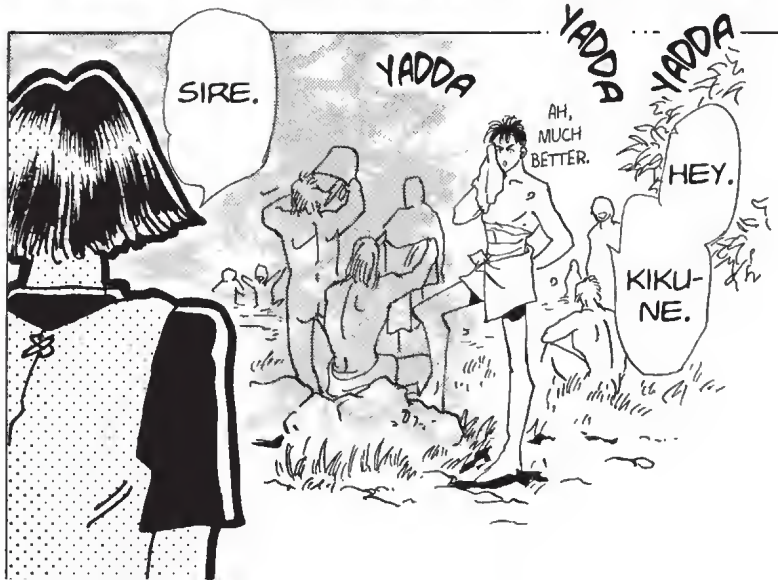

I'LL TASTE IT FOR POISON.
POP

VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME: ④

Meanwhile, Shuri left...

Shima has become poached.

TAMU



I KNOW HE RECOG-NIZED SARASA'S VOICE.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO ACCEPT TATARA'S HELP.
THERE'S NO REASON WHY TATARA WOULD BE HERE.
WELL DONE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
NO, THAT WASN'T ME.
IT WAS THE REAL...
PLEASE, DRINK IT.
WHAT IS IT?
I'M GOING TO HAVE CATFISH. I HEAR IT'S GOOD HERE.
JUST DRINK IT, SIRE.
WINE?
OH, THIS IS FOR YOU.
COULD I HAVE A TASTE?
NO!

TATARA, LET'S GO!
SNIFF
RED WINE?

WHERE DID YOU...?
THIS IS THE WINE I WAS MAKING IN SUO!
DON'T ASK ME!
I SAID, SARASA WAS HERE!
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?

YOUR SUO IS SAFE.
...ARE THRIVING AGAIN.
THE OLIVES AND WINE GRAPES...
...TO REVIVE THE CITY.
WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER...
DON'T WORRY.
PLEASE...
SARASA...

LIKE BLUE AND RED YARNS...
...THE WARP AND WEFT INTERLACED...
KAKU, I'M BACK!
SHURI FROM THE EAST...
...TATARA FROM THE WEST.
BOTH HEADING TO KYOTO.
...TO WEAVE THE COLOR VIOLET...

WE WILL NEVER FORGIVE THE RED KING!
NOTHING HE COULD DO WILL CHANGE THAT!

SHF
SHF
SHF
SHF
HWOOO

TATARA...

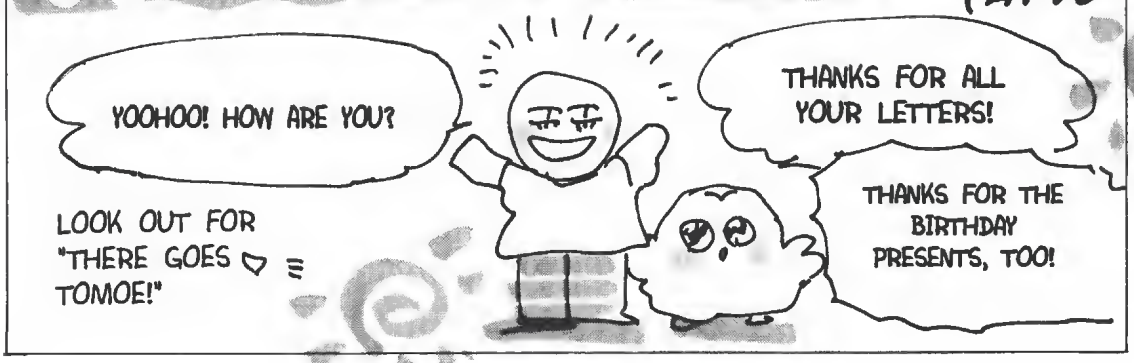
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN KYOTO.

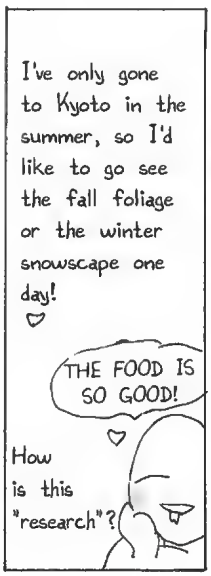
BASARA 19: END.

BONUS!

TAM-TAM TIME

TAMU





TAMU.

Tam-Tam Time: END.